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MONTANA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Chapter 444 1991

Bill H _____ S 287 Original bill & history ___C

H. Committee on Education & Cultural Res.			S. Committee on Education & Cultural Resources		
Hearing Date(s)	3-19	___C	Hearing Date(s)	2-15	___C
	4-1	___C		2-18	___C
	_____	___C		_____	___C
	_____	___C		_____	___C
Date Out	_____	___C			

Did this bill originate in an interim committee? ___Yes ___No

Committee _____ Report _____

3/29 SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
CHAPTER NUMBER 283 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/01/91

SB 284 INTRODUCED BY ECK, ET AL.
ALLOWING CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND BOARD TO HIRE ITS OWN STAFF
BY REQUEST OF MONTANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND BOARD

2/05	INTRODUCED		
2/06	REFERRED TO FINANCE & CLAIMS		
2/06	FIRST READING		
2/13	HEARING		
3/07	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED		
3/08	2ND READING PASSED	49	0
3/09	3RD READING PASSED	41	7
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
3/11	FIRST READING		
3/11	REFERRED TO HUMAN SERVICES & AGING		
3/22	HEARING		
3/23	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL CONCURRED		
4/05	2ND READING CONCURRED	89	7
4/06	3RD READING CONCURRED	84	12
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
4/13	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
4/15	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
4/15	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
4/20	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 514	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/91	

SB 285 INTRODUCED BY ECK, ET AL.
CREATING AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON ALCOHOL PRICING

2/05	INTRODUCED
2/06	REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY
2/06	FIRST READING
2/13	HEARING
2/14	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED
2/16	TABLED IN COMMITTEE
2/18	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED
2/19	FISCAL NOTE PRINTED

SB 286 INTRODUCED BY TVEIT, ET AL.
CAPITAL COMPANY IN SMALL COUNTY OR CITY TO HAVE $50,000 CAPITAL

2/05	INTRODUCED
2/06	REFERRED TO TAXATION
2/06	FIRST READING
2/18	HEARING
2/19	TABLED IN COMMITTEE

SB 287 INTRODUCED BY GAGE, ET AL.
RECOGNIZE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENT WHO PROVIDES HOME SCHOOL

2/05	INTRODUCED		
2/06	REFERRED TO EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES		
2/06	FIRST READING		
2/15	HEARING		
2/19	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
2/20	2ND READING PASSED AS AMENDED	44	5
2/21	3RD READING PASSED	42	5
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		

3/04	FIRST READING		
3/04	REFERRED TO EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES		
3/19	HEARING		
4/02	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL CONCURRED		
4/05	2ND READING CONCURRED	75	17
4/06	3RD READING CONCURRED	81	15
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
4/13	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
4/15	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
4/15	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
4/17	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 444	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/91	

SB 288 INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS

CREATE A SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR ASBESTOS CONTROL PROGRAMS

BY REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2/05	INTRODUCED		
2/06	REFERRED TO FINANCE & CLAIMS		
2/06	FIRST READING		
2/06	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
2/11	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
2/11	FISCAL NOTE PRINTED		
2/13	HEARING		
2/14	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED		
2/15	2ND READING PASSED	49	0
2/16	3RD READING PASSED	49	0
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/18	FIRST READING		
2/18	REFERRED TO TAXATION		
3/21	HEARING		
4/04	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL CONCURRED		
4/11	2ND READING CONCURRED	86	10
4/12	3RD READING CONCURRED	87	11
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
4/18	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
4/20	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
4/20	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
4/24	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 596	EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/01/91	

SB 289 INTRODUCED BY FRITZ, ET AL.

REMOVING THE STATE LIBRARIAN FROM THE STATEWIDE CLASSIFICATION AND PAY PLAN

BY REQUEST OF MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

2/06	INTRODUCED		
2/06	REFERRED TO STATE ADMINISTRATION		
2/06	FIRST READING		
2/06	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
2/11	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
2/12	FISCAL NOTE PRINTED		
2/15	HEARING		
2/16	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL NOT PASSED		
2/16	ADVERSE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED	38	4
2/18	MOTION FAILED TO RECONSIDER ADOPTION OF ADVERSE COMMITTEE REPORT	20	28

SB 290 INTRODUCED BY KOEHNKE

EXEMPT RENT OF SINGLE-AXLE DRIVE TRUCK FROM SPECIAL FUEL USER PERMIT

SENATE BILL NO. 287

INTRODUCED BY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF A PARENT WHO PROVIDES A HOME SCHOOL AND RIGHTS OF A CHILD IN HOME SCHOOL."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Responsibilities and rights of parent who provides home school -- rights of child in home school. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 20-5-109, a parent who instructs his child, stepchild, or ward in a home school is the sole authority and is responsible for all decisions regarding:

(a) the educational philosophy of the home school;

(b) the selection of instructional materials, curriculum, and textbooks;

(c) the time, place, and method of instruction; and

(d) the evaluation of the home school instruction.

(2) A parent who instructs his child, stepchild, or ward in a home school or a child who is instructed in a home school may not be discriminated against for the parent's exercise of responsibilities and rights provided for in subsection (1).

NEW SECTION. **Section 2.** Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, and the provisions of Title 20 apply to [section 1].

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL
SB 287

CHAIRMAN--CHET BLAYLOCK
NORMAL SCHEDULE==> SITE: ROOM 402 DAYS: M,W,F TIME: 3:00 P.M.
SECRETARY-BETSY CLARK

BILL NO	REFER DATE	HEARING DATE	CONSIDERATION DATES	COMMITTEE ACTION	REREFERRED TO COMM	DATE OUT
SB0179	1/23	1/30		PASS AS AMENDED		1/31
PIPINICH, BOB			ALLOW SCHOOL TRUSTEES TO WAIVE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR UNFORESEEN EMERGENCY			
SB0180	1/23	1/30		PASS AS AMENDED		1/31
WATERMAN, MIGNON			REQUIRE SCHOOL BOARD TO PROVIDE ACTUARIALLY SOUND GROUP BENEFIT PLAN			
SB0187	1/23	2/01		TABLED ON 02/01		
YELLOWTAIL JR., BILL			REQUIRE SCHOOL TRUSTEE CANDIDATE TO HAVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENCY			
SB0234	1/31	2/06		TABLED ON 02/12		
GAGE, DEL			APPROVAL FOR TUITION NOT MANDATED IF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION			
SB0287	2/06	2/15		PASS AS AMENDED		2/19
GAGE, DEL			RECOGNIZE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENT WHO PROVIDES HOME SCHOOL			
SB0320	2/08	2/18		DO PASS		2/19
FRITZ, HARRY			STATE ARBORETUM			
SB0389	2/14	2/18		DO PASS		2/19
VAN VALKENBURG, FRED			AUDIT OF ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING MAJORITY OF FUNDS FROM GOVERNMENT			
SB0395	2/15	2/20		DO PASS		2/21
PINSONEAULT, DICK			REVISE LAWS RELATED TO TRANSFER OF TERRITORY OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
SB0456	2/22			PASS AS AMENDED		2/23
YELLOWTAIL JR., BILL			REMOVE LIMITATION ON TRUSTEES FOR SHORT-TERM OBLIGATIONS BONDS			
SJ0013	2/04	2/11		PASS AS AMENDED		2/14
JERGESON, GREG			JOINT RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK			
SJ0017	2/09	2/18		DO PASS		2/19
BLAYLOCK, CHET			JOINT RESOLUTION ON SQUARE DANCING			

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK
on February 15, 1991, at 3:00 P. M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:
Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)
Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)
Robert Brown (R)
Bill Farrell (R)
Dennis Nathe (R)
Dick Pinsoneault (D)
Mignon Waterman (D)
Bill Yellowtail (D)

Members Excused:

H. W. Hammond (R)

Staff Present: Eddye McClure (Legislative Council).

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Executive Action Taken:

SENATOR WATERMAN announced: The Simms Project has been selected by the National Science Foundation for an on-site visit, March 5. She said that she had been asked by the Mathematics Coalition to request that the Educational and Cultural Resource Committee introduce a resolution that would recognize the visit of March 5 by the National Science Foundation. A grant of several million dollars is involved that would make it possible to plan and update mathematics and provide a school partnership emphasizing the importance of mathematics. Because the deadline for bills has passed, SENATOR WATERMAN MOVED that the Senate Education and Cultural Resource Committee approve this resolution. THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS. MOTION PASSED.

HEARING ON SB 287

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:
Senator Del Gage, Senate District 5, presented SB 287, an act to establish responsibilities and rights of a parent who provides a home school and rights of a child in Home School. Senator Gage said that SB 287 comes before the committee as a result of the home school law in the state of Montana. He thanked the numbers

of people in home schools from all over Montana who have written to him especially the children. He said that he would like to recommend an amendment to SB 287 on Line 4, Page 1. He wanted to change the word, "establish" to "recognize" since he said that he thought that parental rights were established long ago. SB 287 is asking that the state with this legislation recognize the responsibilities and opportunities of the home school parents.

Proponents' Testimony:

Doug Kelly, Attorney, Helena, Montana, formerly representing home schools in Montana for 10 years instrumental in introducing the first legislature in 1983 for home schools. He said they compromised in 1983 and the private and public educators were not happy with what came out of the legislation. He remembered drafting a bill that he thought was just perfect--that it was common sense and practical--but the bill was quickly defeated, and he said there were many bills like that but he thanked the committee, saying they had shown great leadership in 1983 and with the help of Senators Mazurek, Brown, and several others a bill was drafted known as the Senate Compromise Bill that became the present day law for home schools.

He said that he had found that most home schoolers were very dedicated. He said that there have been a few that home programs didn't work out for some reason and those children have gone into private or public schools. He feels children are usually enriched by the experience of home school education.

Attached: Signatures and exhibits supporting SB 287.

Opponents' Testimony:

Bruce Moerer, Staff Attorney, Montana School Boards Association, testified in opposition to SB 287.

Jess Long, Montana School Administrators, testified in opposition to SB 287.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Gage thanked homeschoolers for their dedication to the program and thanked the committee for their work on legislation which protects the home schoolers. He urged passage of SB 287.

Adjournment At: 5:00 P. M.

Chet Blaylock
SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, Chairman

CB/bc

Betsy Clark
BETSY CLARK, Secretary

ED021591.SM1

This exhibit is a 56-page study. The original is available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT. 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

A NATIONWIDE STUDY OF HOME EDUCATION:

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS, LEGAL MATTERS, AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.

National Home Education Research Institute
25 West Cremona Street
Seattle, Washington 98119

Copyright (C) 1990 by Brian D. Ray
(revised December 1990)

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT. 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

HOME EDUCATION IN MONTANA:

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.

National Home Education Research Institute
25 West Cremona Street
Seattle, Washington 98119

Copyright (C) 1990 by Brian D. Ray

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. SB 207

children in support of home schooling. The original is available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT. (Phone 406-444-4775)

"Why I Like Home Education"

A Compilation Of Essays By Montana's Home Educated Children

1991

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Exhibits 4-74 consist of letters in support of SB 287. The originals are stored at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

Senate COMMITTEE ON Education SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One: Support	Oppose
Kathleen Haberecht	Self	SB287	✓	
ROBIN R. COLLINS	SELF	SB287	✓	
Ed Haberecht	Self	SB287	✓	
Doug Kelley		SB 287	✓	

DATE 2-15-91

Mate COMMITTEE ON Education Committee - Bill # SB287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Mark Hanson	myself & home education	SB287	X	
Tim Donaldson	myself	SB287	X	
LeNell Hanson	myself & home education	SB287	X	
BOB BALYEAT	MISSOULA myself & HOME EDUCATION	SB287	X	
Lucky Locke	myself & Hm Ed.	SB287	X	
Maggie Stuart	myself & Home Ed.	SB287	X	
Ina Lewis	myself	SB287	X	
Juanita Alano	Montana Coalition of Hm. Ed.	SB287	X	
Elizabeth Dunkel	Meagher County Hm School	SB287	X	
Mark Hensler	Montana Coalition of Home Ed	SB287	X	
STEVE WHITE	MT COALITION OF HOME ED	SB287	X	
Pamela White	myself & home education	SB287	X	
Janet Bibb	Mt. Coalition of Home Ed.	SB287	X	
Cathy Brimhall	myself & home educators	SB287	X	
Bill Johnson Family	All Home-schoolers	SB287	X	
Virginia B. Baker	self	SB287	X	
Deborah T. Murray	home education	SB287	X	
Arlene Diehl	home education	SB287	X	
Jean A. Palmer	Home Education	SB287	X	
STEPHEN A. REESER	HOME EDUCATION	SB287	X	
DAN BRIMHALL	HOME EDUCATION	SB287	X	
LARRY HERBERT MD.	home education	SB287	X	
Dawn Herbert	home education	SB287	X	
Jessica Herbert	home education	SB287	X	
Tiffany Donaldson	home education	SB287	X	
Karen Wells	home education	SB287	X	

DATE 2-15-91

Mat COMMITTEE ON Education SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One Support	Oppos
tephen Webb age 11		SB 287	✓	
lizabeth Webb age 13		SB287	✓	
ichael Webb age 15		SB 287	✓	
[illegible]		SB287	✓	
ilby collins		SB287		
ida Haeder		SB287	✓	
elle Holden age 14		SB287	✓	
athy Bird		SB287	✓	
Erin Brown		SB287	✓	
Bo Stuart	Self	SB287	✓	
Ruth Boltz	self	SB287	✓	
James McDougall	Self	SB287	✓	
Eileen Guthrie	self	SB287	✓	
Patricia Smith		SB287	✓	
Starshine	self	SB287	✓	
Nanette Christensen	Montana Coalition Hom Ed	SB 287	✓	
Honesta Bowe	Montana Coalition of Hm. Ed.	SB287	✓	
Robin Stahlecker	Ravalli Home Educators	SB287	✓	
Nora McDougall	Ravalli Home Educators	SB287	✓	
Cindi L Jarvis	Home Educator	SB287	✓	
BARBA A. ALLEN	HOME EDUCATOR	SB287	✓	
G A Prudden	" "	SB287	✓	
STEVE MUSICK	" "	SB287	✓	
Donna Weldon	"	SB287	✓	
Patricia M. Elias	Home Educator	SB287	✓	
Terri L. Donaldson	Home Educator	SB287	✓	

DATE 2-10-71

Senate COMMITTEE ON Education SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One: Support	Oppose
Katie Spalder	Home Education	287	✓	
Sarah Wilson	Home School Student	287	✓	
Jon Kirk	Home School Student	SB287	✓	
Eugenia O'Keefe	Home School Graduate	SB 287	✓	
Leon O'Keefe	Homeschool Student	SB 287	✓	
Dawn O'Keefe	Home School Mom	SB287	✓	
Debra Bowen	Homeschool Mom	SB 287	✓	
John Briscoe	Homeschool Dad	SB 287	✓	
Barbara D'Estes	Homeschool Parent	287	✓	
Shelly Bates	Homeschool Parent	287	✓	
Ruth E Phipps-Welch	Homeschool Parent	287	✓	
Kimiya Ward	Homeschool Parent	287	✓	
Lucy Hawkins	Homeschool Parent	287	✓	
Carol Turner	Homeschool Parent	SB287	✓	
Jerry & Mary Meeker	Homeschool parents	SB 287	✓	
Neil Turner	Homeschool Parent	SB 287	✓	
Ruth Harrington	Home School Grandparent	SB287	✓	
Susan Dixon 1001 N. Jackson	Homeschool & Public School parent	SB287	✓	
Eileen Lloyd	Homeschool Parent	SB287	✓	
Stan T. Lloyd	Homeschool Parent	SB287	✓	
Marie Main	Homeschool Parent	SB287	✓	
Ellen Bryan	Homeschool parent	SB287	✓	
John VanMeerbeke	SELF	SB287	✓	
David Diehl	Homeschooler	SB287	✓	
Frances Moore	Home Ed	"	✓	
Harley J Smith	Home School Parent	SB287	✓	

DATE 2/13/91

Senate COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One: Support	Oppos
Loretta Chapman	Home Schoolers	SB287	✓	
Bill Chapman	HOME SCHOOLERS	HB533		✓
Marlene Hoge	" "	SB287	✓	
Annette Friesen	" "	SB287	✓	
Rick FRIESEN	" "	"	✓	
John Bosse	" "	287	✓	
Juliette A Bouma	" "	287	✓	
Evelyn Pearsall	" "	SB 287	✓	
Cheryl Bloom	" "	SB 287	✓	
Margaret Asay	" "	SB 287	✓	
James E. Trott	" "	SB 287	✓	
Lucille H. Trott		SB287	✓	
Laurie T Bumgarner	" "	SB287	✓	
Alice E Christensen	" "	SB287	✓	
Penny A Wickenberg	" "	SB287	✓	
Dianne L Snider	" "	SB287	✓	
Michele A Gogette	" "	SB287	✓	
Larry A Gogette	" "	SB287	✓	
Dale J. Field	" "	SB287	✓	
Patty Cozé	" "	SB287	✓	
Debbie Kinder	" "	SB287	✓	
Jeanne M. Johnson	Gallatin Valley Home Ed.	SB287	✓	
Susan L Smith	Home School Family	SB287	✓	
Roxie Nistler	Home School Family	SB287	✓	
Larry W. Johnson	" " "	SB287	✓	
Nancy J. Dupre	home school family	SB287	✓	

DATE FEB 10, 1977

Senate COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Lynn Christoffersen	None, Schoolers	SB287	✓	

DATE 2-15-91

rate COMMITTEE ON Education SB 287

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One: Support	Oppose
Joy Schroeder	Home schools	SB287	X	
Eileen Gibson	Home Education	SB287	X	
Nell Baar	Home schools	SB287	X	
Ronald Baar	Home Schools	SB287	X	
Larry Hall	Christ's Church Academy	SB287	X	
Bruce Christensen	Home Schools	SB287	X	
Katie Smith	Home Education	SB287	X	
Lori Riley	Home Education	SB287	X	
Mea Blom	Home Education	SB287	X	
Rick Blom	" "	"	X	
Cynthia J Peck	Home Education	SB287	X	
Jessie W Long	S.A.M.	SB287		X
Charlene I Howard	Home Educators	SB287	X	
Bruce W. Moore	SSAA	SB287		X
Mary Bowman	Home Education	SB287	X	
Tasha Pisonette	Home Education	SB287	X	
Asher Diehl	Montana Coalition of Hm Edu	SB287	X	
Robbie Sperry	home-schooling	SB287	X!!!	
Helen Pantagelo	Home Education	SB287	X	
Ed Bruno	Legislature	SB287	X	
Peter Carparelli	Billings SD #2	SB287	comments	
Bob Bryan	Home Education	SB287	X	
Diana + Fred Marshall	Home Education	SB287	X	
Nick Diehl	Home Education	SB287	X	
Matthew White	Home schools	SB287	X	

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: Bo Stuart DATE: 2/15/91

ADDRESS: Box 941 MCR HeClancy, MT 59634

PHONE: 449-6911

REPRESENTING WHOM? SelS

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 287

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENT: Have prepared comments

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of Feb, 1991.

Name: Cynthia J. Peck

Address: 9500 Hwy 324

Dillon

Telephone Number: 681-3127

Representing whom?

Myself and Home Education

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

I strongly support SB 287 and wish to submit written testimony for public record

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of February, 1991.

Name: GAYLON ZAHNER

Address: 8000 Lemhi Pass Rd

Dillon MT 59725

Telephone Number: 681-3104

Representing whom?

myself + Home education

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend? ____ Oppose? ____

Comments:

I strongly support S.B. 287

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of FEBRUARY, 1991.

Name: STEPHEN A. REESER

Address: 19955 HWY 91 S.

DILLON, MT. 59725

Telephone Number: 683-6674

Representing whom?

SELF

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend? _____ Oppose? _____

Comments:

I WOULD LIKE MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY ENTERED INTO THE RECORD. COPIES ARE PREPARED AND WILL BE SUBMITTED.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: Eileen Guthrie DATE: 2/15/91

ADDRESS: 2 Cloninger Lane, Bozeman

PHONE: 587-4088

REPRESENTING WHOM? self

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 287

DO YOU: SUPPORT? Yes AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENT: I support SB 287.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of FEB., 1991.

Name: LARRY HERBERT M.D.

Address: 4382 LAREDO PLACE

BILLINGS 59106

Telephone Number: 656-7450

Representing whom?

HOME EDUCATION

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? X Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL WHICH FURTHER DEFINES RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF HOME EDUCATORS.

I HAVE BEEN HOME EDUCATING MY CHILDREN FOR TWO YEARS AND AM IMPRESSED WITH A GOOD RESULTS IN MY CHILDREN. I AM VERY THOUGHTFUL IN MY APPROACH AND BELONG TO A NATIONAL HOME SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

I APPRECIATE MY FREEDOMS, IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

L Herbert

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO.____
DATE____
BILL NO.

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of February, 1991.

Name: Debi Bohnet

Address: 8000 Lemhi Pass Rd.
Dillon MT 59725

Telephone Number: 681-3104

Representing whom?

Myself and Home Education

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

I wish to submit my written testimony in support of SB 287

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO.____
DATE____

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of Feb., 1991.

Name: Linda Holden

Address: HC 73 Box 706
Valier, Mt. 59486

Telephone Number: 279-3326

Representing whom?

Myself

Appearing on which proposal?

S.B. 287

Do you: Support? Yes Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

I am for this bill as it clarifies the law. I homeschooled for 5 years and my daughter is now in the highschool in Valier and an excellent student.

Thank You - Linda

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO.
DATE
BILL NO

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 5 day of February, 1991.

Name: David and/or Arlene Diehl

Address: Box 933

E. Helena, MT. 59635

Telephone Number: 227-5256

Representing whom?

Home Education in Montana

Appearing on which proposal?

SB-287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO.
DATE

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1991.

Name: Barda A. Allen George A Prudden

Address: 315 State Street

Helena, Mt. 59601

Telephone Number: 449-7513

Representing whom?

Montana Homeschool Assoc.

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? Yes Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

written testimony

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.____

DATE____

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of FEBRUARY, 1991.

Name: DANIEL BRIMHALL

Address: BOX 159

E. HELENA, MT 59635

Telephone Number: 406-442-5519

Representing whom?

HOME EDUCATION

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? X Amend?_____ Oppose?_____

Comments:

STATEMENT ATTACHED

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

EXHIBIT NO._____

DATE_____

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1991.

Name: D. Starshine

Address: 704 First

Helena MT 59601

Telephone Number: (406) 449-6663

Representing whom?

Self

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? X Amend?_____ Oppose?_____

Comments:

Attached

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO._____

DATE_____

BILL NO._____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1991.

Name: Mark Gerber

Address: 1436 Redwing Circle
Billings, MT 59105

Telephone Number: (406) 245-2122

Representing whom?

Montana Coalition of Home Educators

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? X Amend?_____ Oppose?_____

Comments:

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO._____
DATE_____
BILL NO._____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of February, 1991.

Name: Charlene F. Howard

Address: 7111 Antelope Way
Helena, Mt. 59601

Telephone Number: 458-6422

Representing whom?
my children in home education

Appearing on which proposal?
Senate Bill 287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO.
DATE
BILL NO

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1991.

Name: Cindi L. Jarvis

Address: 315 Clarke St

Helena, MT

Telephone Number: 443-3146

Representing whom?

My husband, myself and five children

Appearing on which proposal?

SB 287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend?____ Oppose?____

Comments:

See attached

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.____

DATE____

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 15 day of February, 1991.

Name: Lois Brown

Address: P.O Box 91, Victor, MT

Telephone Number:

Representing whom?

Family & Friends

Appearing on which proposal?

SB287

Do you: Support? ✓ Amend? ____ Oppose? ____

Comments:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. ____

DATE ____

February 15, 1990

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 4
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

To: Senate Education Committee Members

Re: SB287

My name is Erin Brown. My family and I reside in Ravalli County. I come before you representing myself, my family and several friends who are not able to be here today.

We are very pleased with SB287. This piece of legislation is one which reinforces parental rights and reponsibilities. No one can question this bill's constitutionality. I applaud and thank those legislators who have sponsored this bill and those who support it.

We have been involved with home education for over 8 years. Five of those years were spent in Nevada. My husband and I were active legislatively when Nevada began passing restrictive home education laws. We have kept abreast of the home education climate in Nevada. Unfortunately, each year new regulations are added. This has caused an antagonistic climate between legislators, public school officials and parent educators. The state of Nevada and home educating taxpayers have become opponets in the courtroom as a result of these regulations. Had Nevada implemented a law such as SB287 there would be a sense of cooperation between legislators, public school officials, and parent educators rather than the bitterness and anger they are now experiencing.

Montana has a golden opportunity to create an atmosphere of support and cooperation for her state's home educating families by passing

SB287.

We personally know 40 families who home school. ALL of these who have chosen to educate their children take the responsibility seriously and are constantly reaching for excellence in their child(ren)'s education. I can confidently speak for these friends when I say that we would feel secure with firm legislation which is supportive of our constitutional rights for home education.

I have with me today two of our children. We have studied and discussed at length the founding of America, the Founding Fathers and their stand for freedom, the purpose and meaning of our great constitution. They understand that one of our duties as citizens of the United States is that we are to be watchful that our valued freedoms are not abridged or robbed from us.

Members of this committee, today I present to you my children as your students. In this arena you are their educators. They know that your job as elected officials is to protect our freedoms. By your vote on SB287 you will impart to them the reality of our unique legislative system. They are watching you and listening to you this day. They understand that your support of this bill is support of Americans' freedoms, our families' freedoms and their personal freedoms.

The Brown family urges your support of SB287.

EXHIBIT NO.
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

I support Senate Bill 287 giving parents the right to educate their child/children at home if it is deemed necessary.

My husband and I support homeschool because:

1. Good support & guidance from our County Superintendent, through whom we report every year, give a list of curriculum, our 180-day school year schedule, & required innoculations, reco
2. Outstanding curriculum choices from many companies, including the Montana Office of Public Instruction.
3. We have had our children tested every year (through Iowa Basics), & this helps our understanding of what to emphasize in our studies.
4. We can stress the basics of reading, writing, & arithmetic.
5. Extra-curriculum activities that support the educationa curriculum.
6. Special educational needs of one child who needs extra guidance.
7. Our children have many times of social interaction that we choose for their good.
8. We can teach good moral, and citizenship values we deem important.
9. We want to include our religious freedoms in how our children are educated.

Charlene F. Howard
7111 Antelope Way

Before man set a footprint in Montana soil, Good-Mother-Lizard, Maisaura knew whose responsibility it was to educate her young. Every deer and bird in Montana knows whose responsibilty it is to educate their young. The Creator knows whose responsibility it is for all of his creatures to educate their young.

Humans are probably the only species egotisical enough to try to take this right and responsibility away from those to whom it belongs thinking that they can do a better job. It

It is not surprising that research is showing the error of this attempt. A study done in Massachusettes show that the literacy rate went down after compulsory schooling and never returned to pre-compulsory school levels.

Senate Bill 287 is more than an ordinary law, it is a proclamation of trust and faith in families. It is a recognition by the State of Montana that, like Maisaura and our Creator, Montanans know whose right and responsibility it is to educate offspring.

Debra Busiove

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 6
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 14, 1991
Steven T. and Earleen Lloyd
P.O.Box 2
Boulder, MT 59632

Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senators:

We are asking that you please consider supporting SB287 sponsored by Senator Del Gage. This is a bill that would further define the present home school statutes.

As graduates of the Montana high school and college systems, we know the benefits and privileges of a quality education. We also as Montanans wish to see our children raised, educated and a part of Montana's future.

The reason we home educate our children is twofold; 1)our oldest child was in the public system and it was failing her and 2) our Christian beliefs can not be upheld in the public system as they can be in our home setting. We know and appreciate every Montanan's right to choose a public or private school, as we also appreciate the privilege to raise our children as we see best. Our daughter attended kindergarten and the first quarter of first grade in the public system in Boulder. She is bright, but much to our dismay we found her to be frustrated with the reading program. After much looking into the problem, we discovered that the program was new and did not lean alot to phonics. We know that a good reading background is the basis for a successful school career. She was not getting off to a good start. We pulled her out and reviewed her kindergarten year with her. She is now an avid reader and an above average student who has confidence in her work. Our curriculum is totally Christian based and well excedes the normal standards of education.

We know two fine people who were educated by the public school system. She did not finish high school, but dropped out. He graduated but does not know how to read or write. We feel that the public system failed these two wonderful people, but we realize that no one system can be 100% perfect for all people. We ask that you consider making it possible for ALL Montanans to always have the choice to choose the way their children are educated.

In closing we would just like to add that we do not expect you to understand why we home school, but just that we wish to keep the freedom to determine and educate our children as we see best. It is a very precious freedom to ALL Montanans!

Sincerely,
Steven T. Lloyd
Earleen Lloyd
Steven T. Lloyd
Earleen Lloyd

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 7
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

My name is Vicky Locke. I am a proponent of S.B.287. Since we registered as a Home School Family in 1983 we've heard complaints about just who is the authority for the Home School students.

Many parents believe their children would do better socially and academically if they continued their instruction at home, rather than going to a public or private school. Studies have proven over and over that these students excel academically and socially. S.B. 287 allows parents of Home School students to pursue their educational activities without interruption.

S.B.287 clarifies the Home School Law [20-501091. It clearly states who is responsible for the choice of curriculum, method of presentation and evaluation of those choices.

The Montana Home School Law works. When you pass S.B. 287 it will work even better.

Thank you for passing S.B. 287.

Vicky Locke
Box 520
Big Timber
932-5556

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 8
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Committee Chairman and Committee Members:

My husband, a professional engineer, and I strongly support this bill, SB287. We responsibly home educate our five children and feel it is not only our right to do so but our ultimate responsibility that they receive a good education.

Noah Webster, a graduate of Yale, descendant of Pilgrim Governor William Bradford, and a lawyer understood the founding principles of our nation when he composed his 1828 Dictionary.

I'd like to quote from a copy of his 1828 dictionary.

> "EDUCATION, n. [L. educatio.] The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts, and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties."

As you can see it was meant from the beginning of our nation for parents to have the right and responsibility to educate their children. In Noah Webster's day we had the highest literacy rate that there ever was in our country and home education was an integral part of that.

We urge your support for this bill, SB287.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Jarvis

Cindi L Jarvis

Richard and Cindi Jarvis

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 9
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 15, 1991

Senate Education Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a day and age when we see the constant chipping away of our rights as parents and the erosion of the family, it is refreshing to see legislation as SB 287 which reaffirms those rights and strengthens the family. Indeed, as SB 287 plainly states, the responsibility for establishing the educational philosophy for our children belongs with the parents.

We recently moved here from Colorado and one of the deciding factors in that move was the favorable home schooling law that presently exists. SB 287 helps to clarify and strenghten that law and we urge your support.

Sincerely,

Bo Stuart

Maggie Stuart

Bo Stuart
Maggie Stuart

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 10
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

EXHIBIT NO._____ February 15,1991

DATE_____

BILL NO._____

Dear Senator Hammond,

Not many years back we were granted the right to school our children at home. This new law was introduced along with great rejoicing on our part, due to the fact that we were already under pressure to put our children in public school. Thanks to those men who were elected to office that year, we have the freedom to educate our children the way we choose.

Within the last two legislative sessions there has been a movement within the educational system to take our new-found freedoms away. We only hope that with your support this new bill, as it becomes law, will give us the assurance of our rights as Americans to educate and raise our children as we see fit. Yes, wherever freedoms are, they will be abused, but when they cease to exist so will America. Thank you so much for your support. Please vote "yes" to SB-287.

With much concern,

Bill and Judy Johnson
55 Dry Creek Rd.
Boulder, Montana
59632

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 11
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. SB 287

Thank you for taking the time to gain the information necessary to make a wise decision on Senate Bill 287. I appreciate your time here listening and other time you must spend reading.

I am Dorothy Starshine. I have taught in the Helena school system for 21 years and am currently teaching English at the 7th and 8th grade levels. I have a doctorate from the University of Georgia in Reading Education. Both my thesis and dissertation involved testing.

I am here to support Senate Bill 287 because I feel the parents are the ones who can best evaluate their homeschool students.

I will begin by talking about tests in general. As ubiquitous as tests are, it is difficult to realize that standardized tests have existed less than a century. In that time, they have become big business. Ralph Nader estimates at least 3 to 4 billion dollars are spent annually on standardized tests such as the California Test of Basic Skills. Companies selling these tests, where profit is the motivation, generally make all students appear to be above average.

Tests have two main components: reliability and validity. Reliability is a statistical measure that reports the percentage of time that a student taking that test would have that score. It is an objective measure of a test.

Validity, on the other hand, is a subjective measure of a test. It refers to the degree to which the test measures

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 13
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

what the test user thinks it measures. For example, a math test reports how well a student manipulates numbers. A spelling test reports how well a student spells words. Even these simple examples are fraught with difficulties such as how many digits and the range of those digits in the math problems or which words will be tested for spelling.

A stickier wicket is the intelligence test. There is no agreement among professionals as to what intelligence is. Anyone taking a series of intelligence tests will have a range of intelligence scores. It could be called a test of the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in school. Calling it an intelligence test makes intelligence sound like a naturally and genetically endowed gift.

It is generally conceeded that all people use less than 5 percent of their brain and all people have an unlimited capacity to learn. People do vary in their rates of learning but to call that variance "intelligence" is to assume that some people have "it"; others don't have "it" and an intelligence test can make that determination.

All tests have a similar problem with the aspect of validity, whether they are called achievement tests, aptitude tests, tests of creative ability, tests of cognitive development, or graduate record exam. The question is: do the tests test what they claim to test. A more significant aspect is: do they test what has been taught.

If schools or the county superintendent administer the tests to homeschoolers, the tests will be invalid. There is

no way that a school or county superintendent could choose a valid test to administer to a homeschool student because to be valid, a test must test what has been taught. Neither the schools nor the county superintendent have a clue as to to what has been taught to homeschool students. Homeschool students study a variety of subjects at a variety of levels because homeschools have a small student-teacher ratio. If public school teachers had only 1 to 5 students, they could also diversify their teaching.

Only the parents who are with their students all day everyday know what their students have been studying. Only the parents, selecting among the thousands of tests available to them, can possibly find a test that matches what their students have been learning and thus administer a valid test.

I urge you to give a "Do Pass" on Senate Bill 287 which will allow the parents to administer a valid test to their students--valid because it will test what the students have been taught.

Honorable Chairperson and Committee Members:

I am Roxie Sporleder from Great Falls. I have a Master's Degree in Education and currently hold a Montana Class 1 Teaching Certificate. I have over 20 years' experience in the field of education, working in such capacities as a teacher, an administrator of a private school, an in-service trainer for teachers, and a homschooler of seven children. Three of my homeschooled children are currently attending college. I am asking you to support Senate Bill 287.

Today I would like to address in particular the provision stating that the parent is the sole authority and is responsible for all decisions regarding the selection of instructional materials, curriculum, and textbooks. I believe parents have both the capabilities and the resources to effectively fulfill these responsibilities.

First of all, we must realize that the homeschool movement is serviced by a full range of professionals. These not only include individuals with Bachelor of Arts degrees, but also those with Master's degrees and Doctoral degrees in Education. Those with advanced degrees are involved in scientific educational research, in curriculum development, in teacher and parent education, and in other administrative and supportive services. With the help of these professionals, including the Hewitt Research Foundation and the National Home Education Research Institute, homeschoolers are on the cutting edge of educational methodology. Some of the current trends in American education are cooperative learning, learning styles instruction, individualized instruction, process writing, and cross-age tutoring. By the very nature of homeschooling itself and by deliberate choice, these are curriculum methods successfully employed by homeschooling parents.

Secondly, many basic books about schooling and homeschooling are available to the parent. The Big Book of Home Learning series by Mary Pride, The Curriculum Manual by Cathy Duffy, The Homeschool Manual by Dr. Ted Wade, professor of education, and Homestyle Teaching and Homegrown Kids by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore are but a few of these kinds of books. These give clear and detailed guidelines and instructions on curriculum construction

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 14
DATE 2-15-91

textbook sources and selection, curriculum reviews, approaches to teaching each subject, and much more information.

Thirdly, parents have access to hundreds of publishers that print for the general public, for the private school, and/or the homeschool. These publishers include the major Christian publishing companies such as Bob Jones Press, A Beka Publishing, and Alpha Omega. In the last Teaching Home, a national magazine for homeschoolers, 93 publishers were reviewed or advertized. Through these poublishers, high structured, closely supervised programs are available as well as individual textbooks and materials.

A fourth major resource to parents are the monthly newsletters and magazines published especially for the homeschooler. The Teaching Home, the nationally distributed magazine mentioned earlier, contains a wealth of information to enable parents to succeed. Dr. Ruth Beechick serves as the Educational Consultant for this magazine. Besides the ads for the publishers, textbooks and curriculums are reviewed and rated. "Teaching Methods and Tips" is a regular column that gives practical oideas to make teaching more effective. Each month there is a special section with up to ten articles devoted to a specific teaching area and methodology such as reading, literature, music, hands-on-learning, mathematics, and other curriculum subjects.

A fifth valuable resource to the homeschooling parent are the workshops, conventions, and seminars that are conducted by professionals and experienced homeschoolers throughout the United States. There are at least 24 state conventions, including Montana and over 24 workshop courses offered to parents. The Association of Christian Schools International has invited homseschoolers to their regional conventions and publishing companies such as Bob Jones offer 1 to 5 day seminars for parents.

The sixth resource I wish to mention are the support groups in the local communities. These can be mini-workshops where professionals and homeschoolers present valuable information on curriculum, the teaching-learning process, and other educational subjects, or they are discussions of relevant issues by parents, resulting in parents helping other parents. The purpose of these support groups is to continue the training of the parent in educational areas, to solve particular problems faced in

the education of children, and to share ideas.

In summary, parents have their own professional network to help them set up a curriculum and select methodologies that are best suited to the particular learning style and needs of their children and in accordance with their philosophy of education and religious convictions.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxie Sporleder

Roxie Sporleder
2215 4th Ave. South
Great Falls, Montana 59405

Marie's
Draperies & Tailoring

1120 10th ST. WEST
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912
(406) 892-2590
MARIE MORIN

February 12, 1991

The Honorable Stan Stephens
Governor, State of Montana
State Capitol, Room 204
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Stephens:

As a business person and as a mother, I really appreciate Montana's good homeschooling laws. I worked for the University of Calgary for one and one-half years, and for Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada for almost ten years, before I was married. Now my husband and I really enjoy our children, and we get great joy educating them!

We have our oldest taking Yamaha Group Piano Lessons, which are expensive, but wonderful! He also belongs to a Club and he really loves that - his teacher there says he is a joy and she told me that she is excited about the knowledge he has for his age! The school curriculum we are using is highly rated; beginning in Grade 2 we would send his work in, they would correct it and send back curricula just suited for him! We keep a written record of what we cover for each of the required 180 school days. We will be testing him as well, and will be keeping those records.

We appreciate our existing law which is very adequate, gives the School Superintendents power to act where needed, can be enforced, and costs taxpayers little! I know many in our business community appreciate this educational alternative, and we are working to keep it - MONTANA IS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT!

With warmest regards,
Rick & Marie Morin

CUSTOM DRAPERIES • BEDSPREADS • DESIGNER DENIMS • COATS • JACKETS
Made to fit Just "You"!

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 15
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

TO: Chairman Chet Blaylock, Senate Education Committee

FROM: Bryan L. Asay, Montana Coalition of Home Educators

RE: SB 287

February 15, 1991

Current Montana law concerning Home Education is usable, effective and protects the interests of the State of Montana as well as the Family in Montana. The compromise in 1983 was effected by a great deal of discussion and consideration by interested citizens and legislators. The law allows for uniform and objective application of review by the courts in cases which merit investigation and prosecution.

Abuse and neglect are abuse and neglect and should be handled under existing laws suited for protecting the child and the rights of the accused. Compulsory attendance laws should not be viewed as a means for identifying child abuse and neglect. If officials see problems, then they should investigate and prosecute if probable cause exists — otherwise, the parents should be left alone to educate.

Home educators should not be viewed as a suspect class of citizens. Unfortunately, superintendents, principals, teachers, and other officials often consider home education unfavorably in theory and, therefore, consider home education to be abuse or at least neglect in and of itself, regardless of the tremendous success of home education generally.

This bill will refocus the state's attention to the existing law — a Good Compromise. A Vote "**for**" this bill is **not** a vote against compulsory education or the Montana Constitution. It is **a vote to ratify a good compromise — a good alternative that is working very well without undo government intervention.**

Parents have a basic and fundamental right to direct the education of their children, coupled with that basic responsibility.

> The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations. *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510,534-35 (1925); See also *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972).

A parent's right to educate their child at home is a basic constitutional *liberty* guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution (*Yoder*). **This basic liberty was recognized in** 1983 by the Montana Legislature. With rights and responsibilities comes authority. This is understood by all home educators and many superintendents. However, there has been misunderstanding among others regarding the authority which rests with parents. Many confuse home education with abuse or neglect and attempt to use existing law and this legislative process to conduct warrantless searches in a misguided effort to expose facts to support their unfounded suspicions.

Officials who have a misguided desire to reach into the home simply because the parents educate their children at home should be discouraged from doing so. **Montana's home educators are doing a tremendous job of educating their children. Those parents should be encouraged by SB 287.** Thank you for your consideration.

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 16
DATE 2-15-91

FEBRUARY 15, 1991

HONORABLE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER,

We would like to submit this written testimony in support of S.B. 287, "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF A PARENT WHO PROVIDES A HOME SCHOOL AND RIGHTS OF A CHILD IN HOME SCHOOL", sponsored by Senator Del Gage.

Please allow us to sumarize some of the immediate issues this bill addresses so well, and some of its positive far-reaching results:

-Accurately specifies the Home School parent rights and responsibilities
-Addresses the rights of a Home School child
-Protects parental rights
-Encourages and supports strong family units- the basic building block of a healthy society
-Supports a strong, positive educational system with documented success both in Montana and the United States
-Protects freedom of choice: educational, religious, etc.
-Relieves local school administrators of erroneously perceived responsibilitiy for Home School children
-Reduces the burden on the Public School system, with no change in tax support from Home School parents
-Deters a deliberate drive by the National Educators Association and others to create a monopoly of the education process in our nation.
-Helps foster a democratic society, not a socialistic society such as we see rapidly decaying in Europe and Asia.

We strongly believe that passage of this bill will not only accomplish the obvious provisions of the bill, but will support and protect the strong family units that are so necessary for a strong, moral society. We grieve at the obviously decaying moral situation in our country; the majority of Home School families hold dear the traditional Judeo-Christian values and beliefs that were so instrumental in the forming of our nation, and in making it a great nation. Please support this bill, and give our state and our nation what they so desperately need: well educated children, with strong and positive moral values.

Please feel free to call us with any concerns and questions you may have.

Thank you!

Ron Baar Nell Baar

Ron and Nell Baar
10787 Little Holland Road
Manhattan, Montana 59741

406-282-7933

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 17
DATE 2-15-91

Daniel B. Brimhall
Box 159
East Helena, Mt 59635
406-442-5519

TESTIMONY AT SB 287 HEARING

Chairman Blaylock, Education Committee Members.

My name is Dan Brimhall, I am Vice President of Operations for American Chemet Corporation in East Helena. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry, and a Master's Degree in Metallurgical Engineering.

My wife, Cathy, and I have been home educating our two children (ages nine and thirteen), for the past three years. Let me dispel a myth about home schooling. It is not easy - sending your children off to public school is easy. It requires a great deal of commitment, planning, and determination. It is expensive, in that we purchase a curriculum, textbooks, and supplies, in addition to paying our taxes to the public system. Cathy does the majority of instruction, instead of pursuing other interests or providing a second income to the household.

However, the rewards are beyond measure. The efficiencies of one-on-one instruction are obvious. There is a great deal of flexibility inherent in the system. For instance, our son particularly developed a love for mathematics from the start. He finished the first grade curriculum rapidly, and went on to finish the second grade level of study in math the first year. This would not have been possible in public school, and perhaps he might have become bored, and lost his zeal for math. We are finding that our children do not fit some artificial standard of expected performance. Like all of us, they have strengths and weaknesses in any given discipline of study. At home, we can recognize this, and gear their instruction accordingly.

Home education is a family-oriented activity. We are not relying on some stranger to be sensitive to our children's needs. We are able to teach our own value system, and guide our children's development in a way that no public school teacher would ever be able to do. We approach life as our school. Learning is an on-going experience, and we can learn where ever we are, no matter what we are doing. Even something as simple and routine as going to the grocery store is part of school, learning how to read and interpret labels, learning how to compute the best buy, learning how to count, and make change.

We have found that by using what we learn in our daily life, the children begin to see the value and usefulness of their studies. And this fuels their desire to learn more.

Our home education experience is something we cherish very much. We interact with other home school families on a regular basis, and

EXHIBIT NO. 18
DATE 2-15-91
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have found them to be very dedicated to providing their children with a quality education.

People often ask us "What about the socialization of your children?" This point is one of the main reasons for our choosing to home school. Our daughter was experiencing a great deal of difficulty at public school. There were conflicts on the playground. We were told that it is routine for one adult to supervise 300 children at recess. Clearly, one adult cannot even begin to keep track of 300 children. The "socialization" of children under such circumstances is left to peer pressure, misinformation about important topics, and the often-expressed hostility and cruelty of children as they attempt to relate in such a chaotic environment. Our children have regular contact with others in a controlled environment, usually with an abundance of adults present to supervise and help. Our children look to us, not their peers, for advice and counsel.

We are asking you to vote in favor of SB 287, as we are very concerned about preserving our freedom to educate our children in a family atmosphere. We are concerned about the intrusion of government into our family affairs. The present law concerning home education, enacted in 1983 is a good law, which works, but one which we feel needs clarification. HB 287 provides this clarification.

Please consider all the evidence carefully, and support HB 287.

Thank you.

Daniel B. Brimhall

WHAT "HOME BASED EDUCATION" MEANS TO OUR FAMILY.

It has frequently come to my attention that people who educate at home -- both parents and students -- see themselves in some way as doing what people in traditional schools do. For a few, this is not to far from wrong; for most others, it's far from the truth. Their are no parallels between what happens in institutional public and private schools and what goes on in most homes, the base from which parents educate their own students. Perhaps the only similarity is that children are involved in both home and school settings; there the comparison ends.

Trying to make comparisons is almost impossible. Both settings involve students, but that's as far as the comparison can go. This is especially true in homes where parents and students learn by doing and following their own interests; where topics (gardening, Mars, dancing, holy days, music, dinosaurs...) are more important than "school" subjects (spelling time, math time, science time...), and where classes are not run by the clock, as in -- the bell rang; go to your next class.

It is clear that we must use an entirely different vocabulary to explain what home education is all about. For this reason, I have stopped using the erroneous phrase, "home schooling". The words "home based education" are much more meaningful and more accurate.

The day to day approach used in our home is identical to that which is used in Clonlara's campus day school; both are fashioned along the lines of the British Infant Schools and of other innovative educational settings where organic learning is practiced.

Our approach is similar in all major respects to the approach used in some schools in Canada, England, and the U.S. and in numerous private schools. It has been recommended and acclaimed by such well-known educators/authors as Joseph Pearce, David Elkind, Jerome Bruner, John Holt, Herb Kohl, Jonathon Kozol, Raymond Moore, and Susan S. Macaulay.

The educators previously mentioned have concluded, that children can successfully develop strong academic skills, a desire to learn, a love of learning and a knowledge of how to learn. This is best effected by allowing students as much exposure as possible to a wide range of experiences. Seeing, doing, talking about it, helps secure the information and instill the wisdom necessary to make use of it at appropriate times. Learning is not limited, then, to a certain time span. It doesn't only take place in a certain place. It isn't confined to only books or films or lectures.

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Students who learn in natural, unpressured ways learn a most important lesson that cannot be learned by reading books or being instructed: they learn to feel good about themselves, to have a realistic image of themselves as worthwhile, loveable, loving human beings who are able to act and to accomplish, to contribute to their families and their community.

When students are not pitted against one another and compared with one another, they mature by honing their own strengths and attacking their own weaknesses -- by succeeding and making mistakes without fear of being censured and humiliated.

Despite the fact that Clonlara's curriculum lists subject areas (reading, math, etc.) separately, our program is, in actual fact and practice, thoroughly integrated. The day is not divided into "spelling time", "math time", etc., as in traditional schools; instead, the TOPIC being studied/discussed INCLUDES spelling and reading and math skills. For example, a trip to Yellowstone Park involves all of the senses (sight, smell, sounds, touch, hearing). It can include academic skills (reading, writing, spelling, discussing, counting, categorizing), too.

Experience has taught that children who learn in this "integrated day" manner can sometimes be far ahead, academically speaking, in some areas and not so far ahead in others. The "catching up" time, as it were, generally comes when a child reaches junior high school years.

The same tools for evaluation -- tests of grade level basic skills, certain achievement tests, e.g. -- cannot adequately measure the growth of students who learn in the organic, ungraded, hands-on fashion described here. Those tools were, after all, designed for institutional graded schools.

Another notable difference between the traditional, graded approach to learning and the organic one lies in the use of textbooks and workbooks. Students who are being taught according to the "integrated day" approach use textbooks as supplementary materials, at best. The major focus is on manipulative materials -- games, counting apparatus, book making, arts and crafts, telescopes, microscopes, toys, to name a few. Experiencing the world around them is of equal importance to the use of manipulatives for these students. Trips to the library, museums, farms, zoos, workplaces, mountains, stores, etc., are a vital part of the curriculum.

Textbooks are mentioned in Clonlara's curriculum, but they are meant to be regarded mainly as reference materials, not as required tools. The books most frequently used in ungraded schools are encyclopediae, home library books, town library materials, newsletters, and childcraft sets/kits, comics, National Geographic magazines, and the like.

Our family education is patterned after Clonlara and we have been involved with their "Home Based Education Program" for several years. Clonlara is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Pat Montgomery is the director.

Barbara A. Arlin O'Shaughnessy

It is apparent to many of us that we are at the crossroads of education in this country.

In the past few years some individuals who have been innovative in education have come under fire by those in the educational establishment. Much of that has been fueled by legitimate concern and fear, Some by the misunderstanding of the authority of public officials and unfortunately, much of it by vindictive and hostile attitudes towards unconventional forms of education. Today before us is an opportunity to clarify the responsibility of those who choose a different path in education and to go on record in support of a concept which shows great promise.

Today's situation is not unlike one earlier in this century when propositions were made to build hydroelectric dams to provide power, flood control and recreational opportunities to the American public. At that time many stood in opposition, expounding the horror stories of thousands of lives lost and millions of dollars in property damage as they predicted the imminent disaster of these dams collapsing. A few brave individuals staunchly stood up in favor of these proposals and now these facilities have allowed us to become the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. At a time when public education seems to be struggling on every front,it is a time not for limiting our options but for expanding our horizons.

Public education is in need of new ideas, thoughts and competition. We shouldn't limit the possibilities. Neither can we afford to listen to those who would speak doom to home education and would seek to severely limit it.

Having said all this, when education finances are strapped to the limit, home education is an innovation that has a proven success using individual family's financial commitments to the tune of $200-$500 per child. It seems that home education should be encouraged, not discouraged. Please vote for SB 297!

David and Arlene Diehl
Box 938
East Helena, MT 59635

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 20
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 297

TESTIMONY OF BRENDA NEAL
Augusta, Montana

I am Brenda Neal, a country girl from Augusta. I am a 1989 graduate of a Montana home school and presently a second-year pre-law student at Magdalen College in Bedford, New Hampshire. I wish to share my experiences and beliefs with the Montana Legislature and why I am in favor of SB 287 as it takes into consideration home education.

Senate Bill 287 assures:

(1) flexibility and individuality. The parent/teacher has the indisputable advantage of recognizing the individual differences in his/her children and responds accordingly, using a variety of instructional skills, teaching the students to work independently, and motivating them. The parent/teacher also can take advantage of community resources outside the home to broaden the student's knowledge.

(2) responsibility and performance assessment. The parent/teacher is committed to his child's education. He/she determines the academic curriculum, creating many paths to knowledge, helping the student to pose and solve problems on his own, and managing and monitoring the student's achievement and understanding of how the various subjects are linked to other areas of learning. I agree, as long as the home-educated student is enrolled in an active home school curriculum, that no external assessment of instruction or accountability is desired, required, or constitutionally authorized.

I began home education in the seventh grade. The only national test I had taken was the SAT, the college entrance exam. I scored above the national and state average, thus opening all doors for my college education. This can all be attributed to my home education, since before that I was a student who hated school and especially reading. My parents saw that I lacked the necessary skills to read well, and since my second year of home schooling, I began to enjoy reading even for pure leisure. School was not the task it had been but was a pleasurable challenge to learn. If my mother had not taught me to read well, I would never have attained good grammar skills or a wide vocabulary, which I also attribute to my Latin course. Because of my English and grammar skills, I was recently asked by my English college professor to tutor other students in my class.

I know that my home education evoked my facile acceptance to all the colleges to which I applied and the scholarships awarded to me. One of the colleges where I was accepted is rated in Barron and Peterson's Guide to Prestigious Colleges in the top 4% of competitive colleges in the nation. The college I am attending is a private college in a Boston suburb, and I am planning a career in law.

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 21
DATE 2-15-91
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TESTIMONY OF BRENDA NEAL
Augusta, Montana

I am Brenda Neal, a country girl from Augusta. I am a 1989 graduate of a Montana home school and presently a second-year pre-law student at Magdalen College in Bedford, New Hampshire. I wish to share my experiences and beliefs with the Montana Legislature and why I am in favor of SB 287 as it takes into consideration home education.

Senate Bill 287 assures:

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Perhaps you are asking yourselves, how did she adjust socially, especially coming from a rural Montana home, twenty miles to the nearest community, to a major college in an eastern city, no less?! Well, the adjustment was smooth, with absolutely no problems at all. I fell right into the circulation of social and academic life. I associate with a large circle of colleagues and am always open and willing to meet and talk with anyone. As for extra curricular activities, I am an active member of a volleyball team and a guard on the college girls basketball team. I have also joined one of the most outstanding drama clubs in the Boston area. This is an art from which I derive much pleasure. Along with drama, I belong to a seventy-person choir where I sing alto, and I have an hour and a half practice three times a week in addition to my academic load.

I kindly request that the Montana Senate Education Committee take my testimony into deep consideration. Please accept my sincere thank-you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Neal

Brenda Neal

2/15/91

[Date]

MAGDALEN
COLLEGE

Mrs. Danielle Neal
P.O. Box 293
Augusta, Montana 59410

19 January 1991

Dear Mrs. Neal;

In reply to your letter, I would be pleased to pass on my assessment your daughter's academic performance and her social adjustment to college life.

As you know, the curriculum at Magdalen College is a four year integrated program based on the great books. Students read the primary texts of the Western tradition, beginning with Homer and concluding with Heisenberg. In addition, the program at Magdalen College includes four years of mathematics and three years of science. There are no electives. The Magdalen College program is taught by the seminar method of instruction, which requires that each student be actively engaged in class discussion.

This demanding academic program would make any weaknesses in Brenda's prior education obvious. I am pleased to report that Brenda is an active participant in class discussions and that overall she is doing well academically.

As far as I know Brenda had no difficulty adjusting to college life. I know for certain that she has many friends and a rich social life at the College.

If Brenda is a representative Montana home-schooler, then I would conclude that home-schooling in Montana is a success.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,

George Stanciu, Ph. D.
Academic Dean

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 22
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

270 Daniel Webster Highway So. Belford, New Hampshire 03102 (603)669-7733

In response to, and concerning Senate Bill 287, presently before the committee, involving the clarification of the rights and responsibilities of home schooling families, who are currently protected under home education enactments, I would like to testify.

I entered school in the public grade school and completed the first and second grades. My parents disliked the atmosphere and curriculum because of the lack of Biblical principles. I attended a Christian school for four years and then was home schooled for six years. I realize how fortunate I am to have been home educated and I have had absolutely no desire to return to the public system.

Home schooling has given me the opportunity to learn far more than I ever would have in the public system. I have had the occasion to be employed by a Certified Public Accountant, giving extra assistance during tax season, and also have had on-the-job training as a dental assistant. These two jobs have given me excellent experience and exposure.

I have seen many of the products of public education; it is not pleasing or encouraging. I have not been prematurely subjected to the uneducational, and in many cases, detrimental circumstances that most students encounter every day. Consequently, I have grown stronger in my faith and walk with Jesus Christ, and been able to achieve more scholastically.

I firmly, and with all solidity, believe that the administration of education is the God-given right and responsibility of parents --not the State-- over their children. It is also the God-given right and responsibility of the State to support, uphold, and protect the parents in their efforts to bring up Godly children. It is a truly sorrowful aspect seeing our nation seek to undermine, frustrate, and obliterate home education. This would be a shameful disgrace to our country, to all countries, and to all that "We the People" stand for and are founded on.

It is a great privilege to be a citizen of the state of Montana, and to have its support and protection for home education. We are one of the few states that still advocates this fundamental and I sincerely hope and pray that we retain that freedom with all circumspection.

Sonesta Bower
125 Park Avenue
Kalispell, Montana 59901

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 23
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Senate Education Com.
Capitol Complex,
Helena, Mt.

Dear Chairman and Members: Feb. 15/91

I am a home educated student and as such, I feel it is not only my right but it is my duty to express my support for Senate Bill #287.

It is my belief that my education is my parents responsibility. My parents love me enough to see that my education is mixed with not only school requirements but also with moral and social standards which meet with our spiritual beliefs.

I love being home schooled and I feel that my mother has done a good job with me, my sisters and my brother. I believe that you can see that I have grown spiritually, scholastically as well as morally and socially.

Senate Bill 287, will allow us to follow our convictions and to continue in our home school relationship, so I am asking you to vote in favour of this Bill so that me and my sisters and brother can continue to be taught in the presence of our mothers love.

I wish to thank this committee for allowing me to speak before them and to express my eleven year old thoughts upon this matter, Thanks!

With Much Respect,

Asher Diehl

Asher Diehl, age 11

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"Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world....."[1]

My name is Nanette Christensen. I am twenty years old and a sophomore in college. Elementary education is my major and I have maintained a 3.54 G.P.A. I have lived in Montana for nearly six years and I am proud to be a Montanan!

My formal education, kindergarten through grade twelve, was accomplished via "home school". My father was a welder by trade, and mother an executive secretary. My creative and highly motivated teacher was my mother. For the first few years she worked closely with a school teacher to be certain she was giving me an adequate education. She had me tested yearly in grades one through eight.

My parents endeavored to involve me in numerous extra-curricular activities. Mother taught me to sew at a very early age, and at the age of seven I completed my very own dress for church. I later took tailoring lessons. At the age of sixteen, I tailored a man's three piece wool suit. Piano, violin and voice lessons

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were also part of my education. These I paid for with money I had earned selling crafts, sewing, and other jobs.

However, I'm not here to tell you about my personal achievements. I'm here to share what a blessing home education can be.

Parents who choose to home school do so with the best interests of their children in mind. The basic unit of our society is the family. You do not need to be told that there are many forces at work to destroy the family. I believe that the freedom for parents to choose to educate their own children with the ideals they hold dear is a very sacred, very special privilege. This, and many other freedoms, have made Montana great. Removing this freedom would come at a fearful cost. My college psychology professor in Virginia expressed several times in his classes that Montana has the best homeschooling law in the nation. We are well known!

My family is originally from North Dakota. We were offered ten acres of land there as a gift from relatives. But, we left that and close family ties because of the intolerance of their homeschool law at that time. We moved to Montana, purchased land and built a home, and now own a prospering health food store and Christian book store in Columbia Falls.

Parents who choose the homeschooling alternative are not delinquent people. They are people who have observed the lives of men and

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women who made the history of our country so rich and our present life what it is. They remember that John Quincy Adams, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln were homeschoolers. Even some inventors - like the Wright brothers - were home schoolers. The light we are using today can be traced to the ingenius Thomas Edison - a homeschooler. Even one of our present Supreme Court justices - Sandra Day O'Connor - was at one time a home-schooler. I haven't even mentioned that the Saviour of our world - Jesus Christ - was taught by His parents.

We have a choice to make. Are we going to limit the freedom of education by parents, and give this authority solely to the state? The Greek pagan government did and miserably failed. Or are we going to protect the God-given freedom of choice?

I thank you for your time!

FOOTNOTES

1. E. White, Education, p. 13
   Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountainview, CA (1903)

Senate Education Committee
2-15-1991

Re: SB 287
Submitted by Kent Gilge, Montana Coalition of Home Educators

Mr. Chairman and Committee members. Some educators have expressed concern about the ability of homeschooled children to be sucessful in post secondary education. I have compiled a partial list of the colleges and universities in which Montana homeschooled children have been accepted or are currently enrolled. They include the following:

Montana State University
Texas A & M
Northern Montana College
Rocky Mountain College
LeTourneau University
Wheaton College
Thomas Aquinas College
Seattle Pacific University
Christian Heritage College
Liberty University
Standford University
University of Southern California
Wiemar College
Berkeley
MIT
Magdalen College, N.H.
University of Oregon
Walla Walla College

A number of colleges,such as Boston College, Northern Montana College, and Harvard have had such wonderful experiences with homeschooled students that they are actively soliciting and recruiting them.
(Letters attached)

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DATE
BILL NO.

Boston University

Office of Admissions
121 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

December 17, 1990

To homeschooled students:

Boston University welcomes applications from homeschooled students. We believe students educated primarily at home possess the passion for knowledge, the independence, and self-reliance that enable them to excel in our intellectually challenging programs of study.

Two homeschooled students currently attend Boston University. One is a sophomore in the College of Liberal Arts, the other a freshman in the College of Engineering. Both students are doing very well. Their educational and personal transitions from homeschooling to the University are a proven success.

If you are a homeschooled student interested in attending college or simply concerned to know more about your options in higher education, we would be pleased to talk with you. To get in touch with us, please call or write to Kathy Mackin, Assistant Director Of Admissions (telephone 617 353-4806). An interview can also be arranged. Our address:

Boston University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
881 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

George A. Schiller, Jr.
Director of Undergraduate Admissions

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EXHIBIT NO. 28
DATE
BILL NO.

NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE
Montana University System
HAVRE, MT 59501
(406) 265-3704

February 13, 1991

Office of
Admissions

Mr. Kent Gilge, Chairman
Montana Coalition of Home Educators
P.O. Box 654
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Mr. Gilge:

Thank you for your letter dated February 10, 1991. For organization's sake, let me respond to your questions singularly.

Admissions requirements for home schooled students are quite simple. The student must make arrangements to take the G.E.D. examination and, upon successful completion of the examination, are allowed to begin college as a student under conditional status. Conditional status essentially requires the student to enroll for a prescribed credit load and, after completing these courses without being placed on academic probation, are removed from conditional status and are considered regular students.

The obvious implication is that no matter how well educated the home school student, current policy will treat that student as if he/she had not completed a high school education. This is true even if the student has completed the ACT or SAT examination with high marks.

Your second question asked what my experience with home educated students has been. I am currently familiar with five students who have applied for admission at Northern Montana College who were home taught. Four of these students are currently enrolled and are doing quite well. Two of the four are well above average. The fifth student was offended by the G.E.D. requirement and did not matriculate.

I have no reservations at all about admitting home educated students. To the contrary, I would like to see the G.E.D. requirement dropped and replaced by an appropriate ACT or SAT score to verify the quality of the home education. Based on what I've seen, I'm confident that these students are prepared for the challenge.

If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to write again or call me at (406)265-3704.

Sincerely,

Kelly Palmer
Director of Admissions

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 29
DATE
BILL NO.

xc: file

TESTIMONY OF BRENDA NEAL
Augusta, Montana

I am Brenda Neal, a country girl from Augusta. I am a 1989 graduate of a Montana home school and presently a second-year pre-law student at Magdalen College in Bedford, New Hampshire. I wish to share my experiences and beliefs with the Montana Legislature and why I am in favor of SB 287 as it takes into consideration home education.

Senate Bill 287 assures:

(1) flexibility and individuality. The parent/teacher has the indisputable advantage of recognizing the individual differences in his/her children and responds accordingly, using a variety of instructional skills, teaching the students to work independently, and motivating them. The parent/teacher also can take advantage of community resources outside the home to broaden the student's knowledge.

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I know that my home education evoked my facile acceptance to all the colleges to which I applied and the scholarships awarded to me. One of the colleges where I was accepted is rated in Barron and Peterson's Guide to Prestigious Colleges in the top 4% of competitive colleges in the nation. The college I am attending is a private college in a Boston suburb, and I am planning a career in law.

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 30
DATE
BILL NO.

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I kindly request that the Montana Senate Education Committee take my testimony into deep consideration. Please accept my sincere thank-you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Neal

Brenda Neal

2/15/91

[Date]

MAGDALEN
COLLEGE

Mrs. Danielle Neal
P.O. Box 293
Augusta, Montana 59410

19 January 1991

Dear Mrs. Neal;

In reply to your letter, I would be pleased to pass on my assessment your daughter's academic performance and her social adjustment to college life.

As you know, the curriculum at Magdalen College is a four year integrated program based on the great books. Students read the primary texts of the Western tradition, beginning with Homer and concluding with Heisenberg. In addition, the program at Magdalen College includes four years of mathematics and three years of science. There are no electives. The Magdalen College program is taught by the seminar method of instruction, which requires that each student be actively engaged in class discussion.

This demanding academic program would make any weaknesses in Brenda's prior education obvious. I am pleased to report that Brenda is an active participant in class discussions and that overall she is doing well academically.

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If Brenda is a representative Montana home-schooler, then I would conclude that home-schooling in Montana is a success.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,

George Stanciu, Ph. D.
Academic Dean

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 31
DATE
BILL NO.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Mrs. Virginia Bert Baker BUDGET _____

ADDRESS Rt. 1 Box 297 Van, Texas 75790 *

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? self

SUPPORT X SB 287 OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

COMMENTS: attached

* (formerly from Fairfield MT. - testified during 1983 hearings)

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Form CS-34A
Rev. 1985

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 32
DATE _____
BILL NO. _____

19955 Highway 91 South
Dillon, MT 59725

February 14, 1991

The Legislative Educational Committee Members
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Committee Members,

We feel that as parents we have the responsibility to see that our children are educated and we believe that home education is the method to accomplish this. We do not see home schooling as an excuse for truancy but rather as a viable authentic alternative to public education. We do not take our responsibility lightly as we desire the highest quality education for our children.

We have observed several Montana families who have successfully home educated their children under the present system and it works very well. Since our children are just entering school age, we are greatly looking foward to home educating our children in Montana. Montana laws presently regulating home education are favorable to the meeting of our responsibility.

Therefore, we strongly support the signing and passing of SB287 sponsored by Senator Gage. Today we have come to appeal to our legislative body to uphold our freedom as Montanans to home educate our children.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Susan Reeser

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 12
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Testimony of
Mrs. Virginia Birt Baker
Van, Texas (formerly of Fairfield, Montana)

Virginia Birt Baker
12-15-91

I home-schooled four children during the years 1972-1987. Five of those years (1979-1983) were in Montana. Following is a chart briefly listing some of the academic achievements of the four now-grown children. Not included are their many extra-curricular activities, honors, awards, elected offices, and achievements, such as Chris's high GPA, his times on the Dean's list, or his record as graduate assistant to the Dean of Agriculture at Texas A&M and class president at TCC; or the fact that Matt was chosen to live with the Chancellor of Texas A&M in the guest house on his estate and in his home during the numerous times he and his family are out of town; or the fact that Julie is the owner of a U.S. patent, the result of one of her creative inventions; or the fact that Nancy is a world traveller of many continents.

NAME	NUMBER OF YEARS HOME SCHOOLED	GRADES	POST-SECONDARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS	PRESENT STATUS	FUTURE PLANS
Julie	6	7-12	One semester, intensive phonics education, Xavier University, Cincinnati OH.	Housewife, mother; homeschooling three children.	Same.
Chris	7	6-12	BS: biomedical science, TX A&M, College Station TX; MS: nutrition, Texas A&M.; Advanced post-graduate courses in nutrition, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA; Doctoral candidate, chiropractic/medical, Texas Chiropractic College, Pasadena TX.	Student, interning VA Hospital, Houston TX, specializing in nutrition, rheumatism, and neurology.	Doctor/ chiropractor/ nutritionist.
Nancy	9	4-12	Three years accounting and business management, Covenant College, Lookout Mtn. TN and University of Texas, Tyler TX.	Married. Manager of travel agency, Lindale TX. Parttime undergraduate student.	CPA, then fulltime housewife and mother, parttime CPA.
Matthew	13	K-12	Senior, agricultural engineering, Texas A&M, specializing in food processing.	4th year undergraduate student; reserve police officer with City of Bryan Police Dept.	MS in food science and technology & business management.

P.O. Box 305
Whitehall, MT 59759
February 13, 1991

Senate Education Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Members,

I am an Home School Educator and an advocate of Senate Bill 287. I am writing to respectfully request your full support concerning this vital bill. Thank you very much

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Linda Freeman

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 33
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Andrea Darling
2910 W. MacDonald Dr.
Billings, MT 59102

February 8, 1991

Montana Senate Education committee.
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senate Education committee members:

I am writing in regard to SB 287 which would clarify existing law in establishing rights of parents to establish home schools. As a home schooling parent, I have seen firsthand the many benefits of children having the freedom to explore and learn at their own pace as is allowed at a home school. I ask you to vote for SB 287 to further clarify the rights of parents to educate their own children as established by Montana State law and the constitution.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 34
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Sincerely,
Andrea Darling

February 12,1991
Steven T. and Earleen Lloyd
P.O.Box 2
Boulder, MT 59632

The Honorable Chet Blaylock
Senate Chambers
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senator Blaylock:

This week you will be presented with SB287 sponsored by Senator Del Gage.

This bill would give the responsibilities and rights of a parent in a home school in Montana more precise outlines than that which we now have in a lesser degree under the present home school statutes. It will clarify those responsibilities and eliminate any confusion between county superintendents and parents.

We support this bill and pray that you will also when it is presented to you. We realize that our school systems are so very important to the future of our children. We know the value of a good education as we are both high school and college graduates of the Montana school system.

We want the best for our children as do most Montanans. Because of the freedom to choose in this state, we chose to home school in support of our Christian beliefs. We appreciate the freedom to choose what we feel is best for our children. We also respect the rights and wishes of those who choose to use the public school systems or private schools. We would like to see this freedom protected for ALL Montanans now and in the future.

Please consider supporting SB287 this week. May God Bless your work!

Sincerely yours,
Steven T. Lloyd
Earleen Lloyd
Steven T. and Earleen Lloyd

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 35
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

KWIK-KOPY PRINTING
702 WEST MAIN STREET
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
(406) 586-8553

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE 2-15-91

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

FROM Dr. + Mrs. Leonard Ramsey
64 Hitching Post Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715

FAX# 406-587-1813

TO Senate Education Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

FAX# 444-4105

FOR ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS TRANSMISSION CONTACT US AT :
FAX# 406-587-1813 OR
PHONE# 406-586-8553

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 36
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

MADE IN MONTANA

FAST ACCURATE DEPENDABLE PRINTING & COPYING

Senate Education Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

2-14-91

Dear Senate Education Committee:

We would like you to know that we firmly support Senate Bill 287. We, as parents concerned for and committed to our children, take seriously our job to give our children the best upbringing and education possible. We know that this is our responsibility, right, and privilege. We look to you, our governmental representatives, to help us continue in providing our children with the best education and loving home possible. We trust that you do understand that this is the parent's resposibility and right.

If you have any questions or would like to come and see a "Home School" in action, please call us at 586-7967.

Sincerely,
Cindy R Ramsey
Cindy Ramsey certified teacher
Leonard Ramsey
Leonard Ramsey M.D.
64 Hitching Post Rd.
Bozeman MT

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO.
DATE
BILL NO.

PO Box 228
Whitehall, MT 59
Feb. 13, 1991

Senate Education Committee
Senate Chambers
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Committee Chairman + members,
Please support SB 287.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Mike Meldon

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 37
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 15, 1991

Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Senate Education Committee:

We would like to register our vote in favor of SB 287. We like the idea of the freedom of choice in educating our children. Besides the quality education homeschoolers receive, we also save taxpayers money.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve and Kaleen Brock
HC 68 Box 8472
Glendive, MT 59330

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 38
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 13, 1991

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill #287 which you will be discussing this Friday Afternoon. I have home-schooled my children for the past four and a half years. I take the educating of my children very seriously, and I do a very good job. If you are interested, I would like for you to see the curriculum I use. I can come to Helena at your convenience. I am very proud of our home school and I thank God daily for the privilege to do so. I truly do count it a privilege and use it to illustrate to my children that it is another of the many reasons I am glad we live in America. Again, I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Meri Hovan

Mrs. Meri Hovan
45 Sunny Slope
Whitehall, Mt 59759

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 39
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO 287

February 11,1991

R.R. 3, Box 380
Conrad, MT. 59425
(406) 278-5341

Education Committee
Senate
Room 402
Capitol Station
Helena, MT. 59620

Re: Home Education Clarification Bill (SB287)

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I want to submit my earnest encouragement to you as you review SB 287. It represents an imperative consistent with our Nation's beginning: the prior right of parents.

No other environment can provide the loving dedicatcn so necessary for each child as "home".

This bill is designed to assert that education is an identifiable area of parent jurisdiction. It does not preclude truancy. It only identifies that parents have the first responsibility and thereby the authority to to choose and provide their children's education.

Your support of this fundamental in family values is most appreciated. The family is the constant spring board of Montana's future. Let's preserve its independence.

Respectfully,

Roger J. Scheidler

Roger J. Scheidler

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 40
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

MONTANA COALITION OF HOME EDUCATORS

P.O. BOX 654
HELENA, MT 59624

Executive Committee

Kent Gilge - Chairman
Chinook
357-2893

Danita Hane
Seeley Lake
754-2481

Mark Gerber
Billings
245-2122

Steve White
Helena
443-5826

Linda Collins - Treasurer
Gardiner
848-7226

Advisory Committee

Big Timber Homeschoolers
Beaverhead Home Educators
Billings Area Homeschoolers
Bitterroot Valley Homeschoolers
Boulder Homeschoolers
Butte Area Homeschoolers
Cascade Homeschoolers
Central Montana Homeschoolers
Colstrip Homeschool Group
East Slope Academic Association
Flathead Valley Homeschoolers Association
Gallatin Valley Homeschoolers
Gardiner's Homeschoolers
GFCC Homeschoolers
Glasgow Home Educators
Glendive Area Home Educators
Helena Area Christian Home Educators
HiLine Homeschoolers
Homeschoolers of Montana
Laurel Area Homeschoolers
Lincoln County Christian Homeschoolers
Meagher County Homeschoolers
Mission Valley Homeschoolers
Missoula Homeschoolers Association
Northern Home Educators
Northwest Montana Homeschoolers
Park County Homeschoolers Association
Seeley-Swan Homeschoolers
Shepherd Area Homeschoolers
Whitehall Area Homeschoolers

Testimony of R. Stephen White for SB 287

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

My name is Steve White. I am a fourth generation Montanan, and live in Helena. I own several businesses in Helena and with my wife Pam home educate our 9 year old son, Matthew. We have been home educating our son for four years. During that time we have enjoyed the opportunity and the academic success which has accompanied this endeavor.

As a member of the executive committee of the Montana Coalition of Home Educators, I ask for your support of SB 287. The Montana Coalition of Home Educators is composed of home educators from across Montana. We are from diverse backgrounds and religious convictions. Our primary bond is the desire to exercise our parental rights to direct the educational settings for our children.

Our children and their future is the only thing of lasting value which we are able to pass to the next generation. We take very seriously the freedoms which are offered in this state. During the last several years there have been many accomplishments in the home education community which I would like to address.

Here are a few things which have happened since the Coalition of Home Educators was founded in September of 1988:

- Almost 50 support groups have been identified and networked around the state. These support groups offer year round interaction between home education families.

- **The Grapevine**, a top-notch statewide newsletter services the home educators of this state monthly.

- **Home School Reference Guides** by the thousands have been distributed to home educators,

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 41
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

libraries and county superintendents.

- Many seminars and workshops featuring nationally acclaimed educators have been sponsored.

- A workshop in White Sulphur Springs is conducted each fall to assist families new to home education.

- A very successful state-wide convention was held last Spring at the Colonial Inn here in Helena. Over 400 people from across the state and neighboring states attended. We even had families from Canada attend.

- Curriculum fairs have sprung up around the state.

- The Governor has twice honored us by proclaiming a week in May as Home Education Week.

Our future goals are to continue to pursue educational excellence for our children. We have more seminars, workshops and conventions planned for the years ahead. This last year we raised several thousand dollars to evaluate the test results from approximately 350 home educated children statewide. This was a voluntary effort by all participants. The results were very positive and consistent with national home education studies. Here to present the results of our study is Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute of Seattle, Washington.

February 15, 1991
TO: SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
RE: SB 287

My name is Danita Hane. My husband and I have home taught our daughters for nine years. I am also the editor of the GRAPEVINE, the state-wide newsletter for homeschoolers, and a member of the executive committee of the Montana Coalition of Home Educators. Because of these roles, I have the opportunity to meet and help many homeschoolers and learn about their problems. Home education, parents and children who are home schooled have come under attack in several ways. Harassment and intimidation occur often and there is a negative attitude towards the institution of the family and family education, even in proposed legislation which sends a negative message to homeschoolers. We are asking you to pass this bill as a positive statement about families—to recognize and encourage parental responsibility, to protect our children and families from discrimination and harassment.

This bill is a clarification of the rights and responsibilities of home schooling families that are protected under the present home school statutes. It will help to eliminate the confusion about roles and responsibilities for home schools that has caused tension and problems for homeschoolers and county superintendents and even local school administrators and trustees. We have been working to improve communication and relationships, and this bill will help to clear up some of the misunderstandings and concerns.

There is another important reason for this bill. Many prominent education groups are promoting policies that would force home schools into the mold of public schools. Certification of teachers, mandated curriculum or use of local school curriculum, standardized testing, monitoring by public school educators, etc., are all ways in which the educational establishment is attempting to make home schools part of the public education system. The problem with this is that many children are falling through the cracks of the public education system. Problems with logistics such as classroom size and classroom management, methods and different learning modes of the student cause many children to get "lost in the shuffle". Many parents choose home schooling because their children are having problems in conventional classrooms. Public education works for many children, but alternatives need to be available for those who do not fit. Home education is one answer to that problem. Parents need to have the flexibility to try different curriculums and methods to help their children learn. They also need to be able to be in control of the evaluation procedures they use in their programs, especially since some of these evaluation tools in the past have been harmful to their children.

Family education is being attacked by resolutions or proposed legislation from many groups who continually attempt to dilute the parents' primary responsibility for their children and consequently weaken the family. Home education is rebuilding strong families, strong family relationships and strong family values. In this day when the breakdown of the family is constantly being bemoaned and blamed for many social problems, the restoration of the family needs to be encouraged, not attacked.

Please vote for SB 287 and protect the home school option.

Danita Hane, HCR 31; Box 1702, Seeley Lake, Montana 59868

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 42
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 15, 1991

Dear Mr. Blaylock,

Please support SB 287.

Perhaps you have asked yourself: "Why would parents want the responsibility of their child's education when they are paying taxes to let someone else do it?" Very simply, because they care.

"Historically it has been recognized that natural bonds of affection lead parents to act in the best interests of their children." I.W. Blackstone. Commentaries 447, 2J Kent Commentaries on American Law 190.

Montana parents who willingly choose to invest their time and money to instruct their children at home can be trusted to continue doing a fine job.

Your vote for SB 287 is a vote of confidence in Montana parents and freedom.

Most sincerely.

Eileen Guthrie

Eileen Guthrie
2 Cloninger Lane
Bozeman, Mt 59715

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 43
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

February 13, 1991

Dear Legislative Education Committee Member;

Having taught in the Idaho public school system, I am fully aware of the pros and cons of public education. While we feel public education is necessary for the good of society, our religious convictions have prompted us to homeschool. It is our desire to provide our children with a sound education based on Godly principles.

Homeschooling in Idaho was stressful. Without any state-wide guidelines, local school districts were given the responsibility of regulating homeschoolers. The lack of uniformity of regulations resulted in an atmosphere of uncertainity among school superintendents, school board members, and home educators.

In 1989 my husband's employer decided to retire. As we began looking for job opportunities, Idaho was not even considered. Rather we concentrated soley on Montana because of the favorable homeschooling laws. My husband, a ranch manager, took a substancial cut in salary to move to an area where the atmosphere is conducive to homeschooling.

We take the responsibility of educating our child seriously and appreciate Montana's homeschooling laws which facillitate our efforts. Please consider this point of view as you consider this legislation.

Respectfully yours,

Debi Zahner

Debi Zahner

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 44
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO 287

9500 Highway 324
Dillon, MT 59725

February 10, 1991

Dear Legislative Educational Committee Members,

This letter is to inform you how important the existing Montana homeschool laws are to those people considering moving here.

Approximately seven years ago our family was living in Washington State, but because homeschooling is one of the top priorities in our family, we wanted to live in a state that would allow us to home educate our children with the least restrictive laws. The nature of my husband's employment is such that we have the liberty of choosing where we want to live. We examined the homeschool laws of all the continental states and found Montana to have the best and most fair laws for homeschooling. In 1984 we moved to Montana and have enjoyed living here ever since.

Homeschool families are positive people who build strong families committed to serving their communities. For example, my husband is a member of the volunteer fire department and served a year as their training officer. He is also an Emergency Medical Technician and volunteers on our community's Quick Response Unit and served a year as its president. In addition, he is a member of Hospice, a nation-wide, non-profit organization to help the terminally ill and their families. Our teenage daughter is involved in the Adopt A Resident program at the local convalescent home. Home school families are strong, active members of their community.

Please don't discourage people from moving to Montana. We are glad we came, and as long asour homeschool laws do not change, we plan on staying.

Respectfully yours,

Cynthia J. Peck

Cynthia J. Peck

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 45
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

19955 Highway 91 South
Dillon, MT 59725

February 14, 1991

The Legislative Educational Committee Members
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Committee Members,

We feel that as parents we have the responsibility to see that our children are educated and we believe that home education is the method to accomplish this. We do not see home schooling as an excuse for truancy but rather as a viable authentic alternative to public education. We do not take our responsibility lightly as we desire the highest quality education for our children.

We have observed several Montana families who have successfully home educated their children under the present system and it works very well. Since our children are just entering school age, we are greatly looking foward to home educating our children in Montana. Montana laws presently regulating home education are favorable to the meeting of our responsibility.

Therefore, we strongly support the signing and passing of SB287 sponsored by Senator Gage. Today we have come to appeal to our legislative body to uphold our freedom as Montanans to home educate our children.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Susan Reeser

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 46
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Testimony of Mark Gerber for SB 287

Mr. Chairman and committee members. As you ponder what to do with this bill before you, I urge you to be mindful of the positive economic impact homeschooling has on our great state.

First, based on an educational cost of $4,000 per student, homeschoolers save the state of Montana $4 million per year on educational expenses while still generating revenue for the state through property and other taxes they pay.

Secondly, while many people are leaving the state of Montana due to our economic conditions, many homeschoolers are moving into the state because of our favorable homeschool law.

Our state organization receives letters weekly from families who are considering a job-transfer to Montana instead of another state, and are examining our homeschool law as a deciding criteria. These people are generally middle-to-upper income families.

We also receive numerous inquiries from businessmen who are considering moving job-creating businesses here, despite our perceived "anti-business" environment. These prospective employers include individuals in the professional fields, and once again, they are particularly interested in our state due to our positive homeschool law.

Attached are copies of 28 letters representing homeschoolers from 15 different states and the country of Korea. These people are thinking about moving here, because of our homeschool law, or already have.

In summary, homeschoolers are committed to their cause, even to the point of placing greater importance on their homeschooling than their job location. Families have moved here seeking the freedom to teach that our state has to offer them. They also will not hesitate to move out of Montana if they are harassed and discriminated against.

Homeschoolers are building strong families and a strong economy for Montana, at the same time. Montana needs both. Please don't discourage others from moving into Montana, and don't encourage those already here to move out. Vote for SB 287.

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 47
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Exhibits
To Accompany
Mark Gerber's
Testimony
Re: SB 287

Sweet Medical Center

P.O. Box 309 — 419 Pennsylvania
CHINOOK, MT 59523
(406) 357-2294

December 4, 1990

Governor Stan Stephens
Governor's Office
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Stephens,

I recently read an article in the *Big Sky Business Journal* (copy enclosed) reporting on the role home education is playing in attracting people to the state.

I felt compelled to let you know that the home education freedoms offered in this state were very much a factor in our decision to relocate to Montana. The beauty and recreational opportunities also lured us and made up, to some extent, the financial gains we could have made in other states.

There are many top-notch professionals and quality people in general who have committed themselves to the educational excellence home education provides.

As the only privately practicing physician in Blaine County, I am acutely aware of the difficulties rural areas have in attracting professionals. Let's not place unnecessary restrictions on anything that can be used as a positive recruiting factor, as well as restricting freedom of educational choice.

We are appreciative of the support you have offered home education in the past and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stan Jett

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 48
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Montana Coalition of Home Educators
Box 654
Helena, Montana 59624

We have been considering moving to Montana. We live in New Mexico and home school our two sons. We would like to know about your laws governing Home Schooling in your state. Our oldest son (9th grade) suffers from a Sleeping Disorder "Narcolepsy/Cataplexy" therefore having a need for individual instruction that public schools can not deliver. It is important to us that we know your laws before a final decision can be made about our moving there. We plan a vacation in '91' to visit your state and look for property. We are ranchers and need several acres for raising cattle and horses. We prefer mountain areas rather than plains. Thank you for your cooperation and time. Are Enclosed a SASE

Sincerely,
Loyd & Lynn Ingram

Box 59 Hwy 595
Lindrith, N.M. 87029

Phone - (505) 774-6533

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 49
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

9500 Highway 324
Dillon, MT 59725

February 10, 1991

Dear Legislative Educational Committee Members,

This letter is to inform you how important the existing Montana homeschool laws are to those people considering moving here.

Approximately seven years ago our family was living in Washington State, but because homeschooling is one of the top priorities in our family, we wanted to live in a state that would allow us to home educate our children with the least restrictive laws. The nature of my husband's employment is such that we have the liberty of choosing where we want to live. We examined the homeschool laws of all the continental states and found Montana to have the best and most fair laws for homeschooling. In 1984 we moved to Montana and have enjoyed living here ever since.

Homeschool families are positive people who build strong families committed to serving their communities. For example, my husband is a member of the volunteer fire department and served a year as their training officer. He is also an Emergency Medical Technician and volunteers on our community's Quick Response Unit and served a year as its president. In addition, he is a member of Hospice, a nation-wide, non-profit organization to help the terminally ill and their families. Our teenage daughter is involved in the Adopt A Resident program at the local convalescent home. Home school families are strong, active members of their community.

Please don't discourage people from moving to Montana. We are glad we came, and as long as our homeschool laws do not change, we plan on staying.

Respectfully yours,

Cynthia J. Peck

Cynthia J. Peck

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 50
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

January 30, 1991

Governor Stan Stephens
Governor's Office
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Stephens,

I participated in the recent Home Education Legislative Day activities held on January 25, 1991. I want to say thank you for your support of this cause. Your support has not gone unnoticed, nor unappreciated.

One of the main reasons our family chose to relocate to Montana last year was because of the issue of homeschooling. We moved from a state that did not have favorable laws which allowed parents to freely educate their children as they felt was best for the child.

I am a medical professional employed with the Public Health Service. There were several states where I could have chosen to relocate. I am glad we chose Montana.

We appreciate the support you have offered home education in the past and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Glen Revere, MS, RD
2415 Heritage Dr.
Havre, MT 59501
265-1741

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 51
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Dear Friends of:

Aug 22, 1990

Montana Coalition of Home Educators

We Home School our 2 daughters. Right now we are living in Brawley, California The first week of October we are moving to Great Falls, Montana. Could you please send us information on legal matters Concerning "Home Schooling in the State of Montana.

Here is our current address that will forward our mail to Montana. (We don't have an address in Montana yet.)

Mrs. Daryl A. Riffel
State St., Box 37
Centro, CA 92243

Thank you -

Because of Calvary -

Mrs. Cheri Riffel

Pro 3:6

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 52
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

7-27-90

Hi!

We are a family of six (soon to be seven) and we home-school in Washington ~~state~~. Possibly, we plan to move next spring to Montana and are concerned regarding how many regulations the state puts on those who teach at home. Do you have some information on this subject? From what we hear, our state is one of the least regulated states when it comes to state control.

We would appreciate any help you may have for us. Are there support groups in the Great Falls area? Does Montana pick curriculum and give parents an ultimatum? Do parents have educational requirements to teach their kids?

Thanks, and may the Lord bless you!

Richard + Keren Fish
1907 Lakewood Drive
Snohomish, WA 98290
206-568-2566

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 53
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. SB7

Dear Montana Coalition,

Could you please mail me your laws, legislation & current status of the home schooling situation in Montana?

(Seems like I wrote you before but have no record of it)

Thank you -

Sincerely

John Jakliel
1823 Broxon ST
Boise, Id 83705

208-348-7905

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 54
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Dear State Organization

Please send information about a local home schoolers group in Great Falls, Montana to my friend who is seeking this kind of information. Send address, phone #, person to contact, any meeting dates and places of meeting and any other information you feel would be of value to her. Enclosed is a stamped and addressed envelope please send this info as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Julieann Skiver
fellow home schooler
in South Korea

"O continue Thy lovingkindness
unto them that know Thee..."
PSALM 36:10

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 55
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

October 24, 1990

Montana Coalition of Home Schools
Box 654
Helena, Montana 59624

Dear Sir or Madame:

My husband and I are moving our family (4 children ages 6, 3½, 1½ and 4½ months) to Bozeman as soon as we sell our house. We are home schooling our 6 year old, and I would like to make contact with other families in the Bozeman area prior to our arrival. Do you have the name of someone I might contact regarding a support group or a contact person in the Bozeman area? I would appreciate any information you can provide.

Thank you for your help.

Kathy Saul
4618 Collins St.
San Diego, Ca. 92122

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 56
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 297

November 16, 1990

Montana Coalition of Home Educators
Box 654
Helena, Montana 59624

Gentlemen:

Our family is currently considering relocating to Montana. We are strongly committed to home-schooling our three children. Could you please forward me information regarding the State of Montana's laws regarding home education?

New Mexico's requirements are, at this time, very easily met and the political climate is somewhat tolerant. They do require that the instructor possess a B.S. degree but this may be waived.

We would appreciate any information you can make available to us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom & Dollie Hare

Tom and Dollie Hare
Box 892
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

SENATE COMMITTEE
EXHIBIT NO. 57
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. SB 7

429 Grange Road
Wheatland, Wy 82201
November 10, 1990

Homeschoolers of Montana
P.O. Box 654
Helena, MT 59624-0654

Dear Sir:

My family and I are considering moving to your state in the near future. We will probably be living in a remote cow camp on one of your state's ranches.

I am currently preparing to start our 9 year old son in home schooling. I plan to continue home schooling after we move.

Would you please tell me what the laws are in your state concerning "home schooling". What rules and regulations have to be met, etc. Any information and help you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

I hope to get all the red tape taken care of once we decide where we are going to move.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dianne Smith

Dianne Smith

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 58
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

1/14/91

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are considering a move to Bozeman, MT. Could you please send us a name or names of homeschoolers we could contact in Bozeman. Or if there is a H.S. support group we would appreciate that information.

If you have any information on H.S. laws in Montana, we'd appreciate that also.

I've enclosed a SASP for your convenience.

Thank-you very much.

Sincerely,

Carol Day

Roger & Carol Day
440 N. Garden City Road
Fremont, NE 68025

OMAHA, NE 681
PM
14 JAN
1991

USA 25

Montana Coalition of Home Schools
Box 654
Helena, MT 59624

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 59
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Dear Sir/Madam,

Could you please send me some information about your organization and also about the laws concerning ~~a~~ home schooling in your State. My husband and I are considering a move to that area, and one of our considerations would be how difficult home schooling criteria would be.

Thank you for your time and your help.

Sincerely,

Denise Cohen
29 Essex Ave.
Waterbury, Ct. 06704

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 60
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Home Schoolers
Montana

Dear Sir,

My husband and I would like current information on the Home School Laws in Montana. We have been discussing the possibility of relocating in Montana. Any information you can give us would be greatly appreciated. Thank you

Sincerly
Mrs. Julia A. Hayes

Glenn W. Hayes
S6250 Klein rd.
Rock Springs Wis 53961

EXHIBIT NO. 61
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Please send us the laws & all important information on homeschooling in Butte, Montana. This is our fifth year of homeschooling and we intend to go on through high school, but since we are moving to Montana, we needed to know the legal status. Thank you.

Mr. & Mrs Tom Skehee
Rt. 3 Box 218a
Mineral Wells, Tx.
76067

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 62
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Please Send a Copy of Montana Home School Law.

Thank You,

Cathy Anderson

Box 315
East Moriches, NY 11940

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 63
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

4340E 5425 S
Langley, Wa 98260
July 10, 1990

Montana Home Educators
729 5th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Greetings, we are considering move to Montana and currently meschool in Washington. Would you ease send me information regarding he situation in Montana for omeschooling.

Thank you,

Ronna Bartil

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 64
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO 287

I am writing from Spearfish, S.D., am originally from Montana. We will be moving over to Bozeman, Mt. soon. Would like some information on the Homeschool organization there and in Montana. Would like to subscribe to the Mont. Home-school news-letter.

Penny Phillips
R. Rt. 2 Box 423
Spearfish, S.D.
57783

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 65
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO 281

Aug 6, 1990

To Coalition of Home Educaters:

My name is Robi Purdy
I am writing to ask for
information on home schooling
in your state. What is the legal
status as present, requirements etc.
We are presently living in CA. We
are from Arizona. I would
appreciate any and all information!!
Thank you very much for your
time.

God Bless

Robi R. Purdy

Robi R. Purdy
35 E. Deerwood Ln.
Tracy, CA
95376

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 66
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Dear Madam/Sir:

We will be moving to Montana in the very near future and would greatly appreciate any information that you can send to us regarding home-schooling regulations and laws for Montana. We are presently doing home-schooling now and intend to continue after our move.

Our current mailing address is:

Mrs. Anita Givens

508 N. 4th Street

Sterling, Co. 80751

Thank-you,

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 67
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

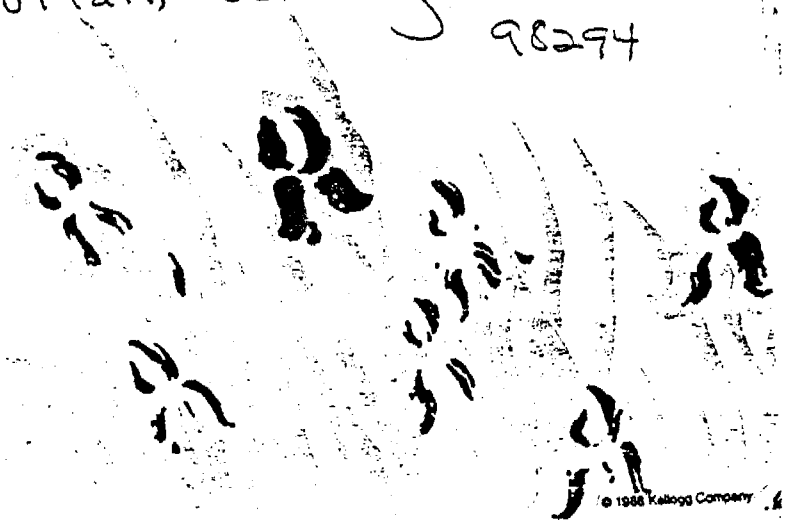
JAMES & PEGGY TUTTLE
31931 116TH ST. S.E.
SULTAN WA 98294

Dear Home schoolers,

Would it be possible for you to send me some information concerning Montana's Home School LAWS - We may be moving to Montana and I would like to continue to Homeschool.

Thank you.

Mrs. Peggy Tuttle
31931-116th St. S. E.
Sultan, Washington
98294



SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 68
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

9-24-90

HOME SCHOOLERS OF MONTANA
P.O. BOX 654
HELENA, MT 59624

PLEASE SEND ME INFO
ON HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT
GROUPS IN YOUR STATE
AND/OR BILLINGS, MONTANA
AS WELL AS APPROXIMATE
OF HOME SCHOOL
FAMILIES, ETC.
THANK YOU!

SINCERELY—
MARLA CARLOS

P.S. "SASE" ENCLOSED

116 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 69
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Oct. 6, 1990

Dear Homeschool Assoc.,

I currently homeschool our three sons in Wash. state, however we plan to relocate within the next 12 months and may move to Mont. I sent for a copy of the law from the Mt. Superintendent, which I received & am curious to know how & what is required to comply with the health/safety aspect & the accredidation part of the law. Any information you could give me would be appreciated.

This is our fifth year of homeschooling. Our older two took their GED's @ 16 and one is attending Mont. Wilderness School of the Bible; the other finished a Jr. Acct. program @ VOTEC & is looking into Elem. Ed. for 1991. I have never taken a homeschool course, but do hold an Associate Degree of Arts in Nursing & am an RN. My husband had 2½ yrs of college.

Please let me know of yours

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 70
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Dear Fellow HomeSchoolers,

Our family has recently moved to the beautiful state of Montana. We have come from Houston, Tx. where last year I served as a support group leader for the S.W. Houston/Alief group. I have 5 children ages 9 to 16mos.

Here is my $5.^{00}$ to be apart of your group. I have a few questions.

1. Are you a Christian home schooling organization? If not is there one in the Kalispell/ BigFork area?
2. Do you have a directory of other homeschoolers?

Please also send me the Montana Home School Law. 50¢

Send to:
Rt. 1 Meadowcreek
BigFork, Mt.
59911

Sincerely In Christ,
Michelle Bartlett

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 71
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. SB 87

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Forsyth
1000 W. 57th N.
Tulsa, Ok. 74126

Montana Coalition of Home Educators
P.O. Box 654
Helena, Montana 59624

January 15, 1991

Dear Fellow Home Educators,

With deep intrest and much concern I write. We are home educators and members of C.H.E.F., Christian Home Educators Fellowship, here in Tulsa. We have two (2) school aged children which we have been free to educate at home without regulation or persecution of any kind. We feel resposible for our children's education and work very hard with them to ensure they receive adequate training. We proride all learning materials that are needed and, I might add, the results have been tremendous! Our children read & write & spell & reason at an exceptional rate. Furthermore, we feel our children are happier, healthier, and better behaved than public school children. My concern therefore is the laws & ordinces pretaining to home school in the state of Montana.

You see, my husband and I look forward to moving to Montana. And feeling as we do about home school, not willing to give it up, we write you afore time for assistance. Please send us any information you might feel we would need to prepare us for such a move. If you are unable to assist us please send us the names of the ones we should contact, Postage is included. We would be truly grateful and indebted for your response.

Sincerly yours,
Mrs. Jonathan Forsyth
1000West 57th Street North, Tulsa, Ok. 74126

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 74
DATE 2-15-91

Penny Jordan
112 Strickland Dr.
Mather A.F.B., CA 95655

Sept. 10, 1990

Dear Fellow Home Educator,

Our family will be moving to Great Falls in January 1991 from California. This is our third-year to home-school and we wish to continue when we arrive in Montana.

I have recently read in the Aug./Sept. issue of *Teaching Home* that the Montana Education Association is trying to get a law passed that would impose a teacher certification standard. And that the MEA wants home schoolers to be required to use "the state curriculum". Of course this concerns me as I'm sure it would most who are homeschooling.

I was wondering if you can make any suggestions as to what we might do to see that these requirements do not become law. I would greatly appreciate any information on this issue, and what is happening with it.

Thank you very much and I will continue to uphold this concern in my prayers.

Sincerely,
Penny C. Jordan
Penny Jordan

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 72
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

Homeschoolers of Montana,

I recently wrote to your State Education department inquiring about the home school laws in your state.

I wondered if you could send me any other information. Do the children have to be tested every year?

Also I wonder if you could give me any place I could call or write to get information about housing or jobs.

Thank you in advance for any thing you can do for me.

I have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope.

Thanks again

Debbie Staley
9330 Briar Rd
Magnolia, OH 44643

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 73
DATE 2-15-91
BILL NO. 287

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, on February 18, 1991, at 3:45 P. M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)
Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)
Robert Brown (R)
Bill Farrell (R)
H.W. Hammond (R)
Dennis Nathe (R)
Dick Pinsoneault (D)
Mignon Waterman (D)
Bill Yellowtail (D)

Staff Present: Eddye McClure (Legislative Council).

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

HEARING ON SB 389

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Van Valkenburg presented SB 389, an act to establish legislative audit of school organizations receiving majority of funds from government. The bill is specifically introduced to carry out one of the agreements that was entered into between Senator Van Valkenburg and the Montana High School Association during the middle of the 1989 session. Exhibit 1.

Opponents:

Bruce Moerer, Montana School Board Association testified in opposition to SB 389. He recalled that last session there was some dispute with the Montana High School Association regarding a bill introduced concerning the open meeting law. The bill was amended so it would apply to the regulatory bodies and the only one that it applied to was the Montana High School Association. since none of the other associations are regulatory in nature.

SENATOR FRITZ MOVED HB 208 be TABLED. Vote was unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 287

SENATOR BROWN MOVED that SB 287 be amended, adopting Lines 1-6 with the exception of Subsection D. Vote was unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

SENATOR Blaylock said that he felt "we are hanging this on the county superintendent. We are saying that they should know what is going on. I have talked to a lot of these good people and talked to them down in Yellowstone County. There is no way for a Home School group to really know what is going on in the other Home Schools. They don't know whether there is constant recess or if there is really an intensive educational program going on. I am not talking about philosophy. I don't care what the philosophy is. I am saying that there is no way of knowing if kids are learning because there is no authority and no one really does know.

I guess as a member of the State Legislature acting under the Constitution of the State of Montana which says that we are supposed to do certain things, it is of concern to me that homeschooling is so free and open. I am not sure, leaving it like this, as Senator Brown's motion would leave it that we have done the best that we should by all of the students of this state who are citizens of the state of Montana. That bothers me deeply".

Senator Hammond asked how the chairman felt the committee was doing something for these people by denying parental rights and responsibilities.

Senator Blaylock said that he didn't want to deny any parental rights and responsibilities. He said, "I am just saying that in all of our public school and any of the private religious schools, if they want to be accredited, they have to meet and do certain things".

These children who are in the Home Schools are citizens of this state and if their parents remain here, the children will be citizens all the way through. We are saying that their education needs no evaluation by anybody".

Senator Hammond said, ..."but if they are going to come into the public school, they will be evaluated".

Senator Blaylock said at that point if a student is coming into the public schools, is tested at a seventh grade level and can't read at a first grade level, what can we say we have done for that child?

Senator Hammond said that he thought there are many students in the public schools who can't read or write. He went on to say that the reason for accreditation is to provide money. Schools are told that if they are not accredited, they will not be funded. The big thing has always been accreditation.

Senator Waterman: "Do you have any answer for my concern? I guess that I really have a concern about people who would keep their children home for less than noble reasons; maybe, to work or babysit. We have seen this in this district. How would you evaluate whether there was any instruction or learning going on in a case like this?"

Senator Brown: "I don't know if you can evaluate this but those who take this seriously..."

Senator Waterman: "I am no talking about those who take it seriously. What happens if one of the neighbors calls and says that they think this child is truant and the parents say that they are homeschooling. What can we do to get on top of that case? Can a county superintendent not require something? I guess that is why I am concerned. I think there should be some authority in this".

Senator Pinsoneault: "The solution would be if the homeschoolers could come forward with some sort of self policing program saying that they have a committee set up who is doing some sort of monitoring or patrol over those homeschoolers in the county or district. I have a real heart-rending letter in my file--I happen to know them personally--their children are 8, 9, and 10 years old. They have been homeschooled and cannot read. That, to me, is a crime. That could be going on. Home School people should come forward with some sort of program and a county superintendent could put her blessing on it.

Senator Farrell: There have been so many professional athletes who came out of public schools and went clear through college and can't read or write. You could make that same argument for our public school system. I really don't think this is an issue that we should be concerned with unless we are going to be concerned with it in our own public school system. I don't find many people worrying about the dropout kids as much as we are when this issue of homeschooling comes in. We have kids that drop out of school at 15 or 16 years old and we are not requiring schools to test them to see what their aptitude is. I really object to saying that you should test the Home Schools kids. If they want to go to a public school, then they could be tested and placed. I don't have any objection to that because we ar accepting the problem if it is a problem. We have enough problems in our own public school system. Some of the benefits that I've seen in homeschooling far outweigh some of the benefits in public schools.

Senator Hammond also pointed out that homeschoolers are paying

taxes to support the public schools. He said that he was amazed that somebody hasn't come forth and said that their children aren't attending public schools and they shouldn't have to pay taxes into them but he said that he had never heard any of the homeschoolers even mention it.

Senator Brown said that even though I share some of the concerns of Senator Waterman, I don't think that any useful purpose will be served by demanding that home school students be tested by county superintendents or anyone else."

SENATOR BROWN MOVED to reinstate Subsection D in the amendment to SB 287. MOTION CARRIED. (Yellowtail, Waterman and Blaylock voted no).

SENATOR BROWN MOVED SB 287 do pass AS AMENDED. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED. (Combined amendments No. 380834SC.SJI - attached to Standing Committee Report).

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 5:30 P. M.

Chet Blaylock
SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, Chairman

Betsy Clark
BETSY CLARK, Secretary

CB/bc

CHAIRMAN--TED SCHYE
NORMAL SCHEDULE==> SITE: ROOM 312-1 DAYS: TU,TH TIME: 3:00 P.M.

SECRETARY-DIANNE MCKITTRICK

--BILL NO---	REFER DATE---	HEARING DATE---	CONSIDERATION DATES----------	COMMITTEE ACTION----------	REREFERRED TO COMM----	DATE OUT-
SB0180	2/05	3/08		CONCUR		3/09
WATERMAN, MIGNON			REQUIRE SCHOOL BOARD TO PROVIDE ACTUARIALLY SOUND GROUP BENEFIT PLAN			
SB0287	3/04	3/19		CONCUR		4/02
GAGE, DEL			RECOGNIZE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENT WHO PROVIDES HOME SCHOOL			
SB0320	3/04	3/14		CONCUR		3/20
FRITZ, HARRY			STATE ARBORETUM			
SB0389	3/04	3/19		CONCUR AS AMENDED		4/02
VAN VALKENBURG, FRED			AUDIT OF ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING MAJORITY OF FUNDS FROM GOVERNMENT			
SB0395	3/04	3/21		CONCUR		4/02
PINSONEAULT, DICK			REVISE LAWS RELATED TO TRANSFER OF TERRITORY OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
SB0456	3/04	3/19		CONCUR AS AMENDED		4/02
YELLOWTAIL JR., BILL			REMOVE LIMITATION ON TRUSTEES FOR SHORT-TERM OBLIGATIONS BONDS			
SJ0009	2/09				HUMAN SERVICES	
PINSONEAULT, DICK			URGE CREATION OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM			
SJ0017	3/04	3/21		CONCUR		4/02
BLAYLOCK, CHET			JOINT RESOLUTION ON SQUARE DANCING			
SJ0020	3/04	3/19		CONCUR		4/02
YELLOWTAIL JR., BILL			RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INDIAN MONUMENT AT CUSTER BATTLEFIELD AND NAME CHANGE			
SJ0021	3/04	3/21		CONCUR AS AMENDED		4/02
THAYER, GENE			URGE CONGRESS FUND COMPLETION OF LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER			
SJ0027	4/06	4/10		CONCUR		4/11
GAGE, DEL			INTERIM STUDY OF REMAINING SCHOOL FUNDING EQUITY ISSUES			

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Chairman Ted Schye, on March 19, 1991, at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Ted Schye, Chairman (D)
Ervin Davis, Vice-Chairman (D)
Steve Benedict (R)
Ernest Bergsagel (R)
Robert Clark (R)
Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Fred "Fritz" Daily (D)
Alvin Ellis, Jr. (R)
Gary Feland (R)
Gary Forrester (D)
Floyd "Bob" Gervais (D)
H.S. "Sonny" Hanson (R)
Dan Harrington (D)
Tom Kilpatrick (D)
Bea McCarthy (D)
Scott McCulloch (D)
Richard Simpkins (R)
Barry "Spook" Stang (D)
Norm Wallin (R)
Diana Wyatt (D)

Staff Present: Eddye McClure, Legislative Council
Dianne McKittrick, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

HEARING ON SB 389

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR FRED VAN VALKENBURG, Senate District 30, Missoula, said SB 389 would give the legislative auditor the authority to conduct or contract for the conducting of audits of school related organizations who receive a majority of funding from taxpayer dollars. This bill results from efforts in the 1989 Legislative Session to get the attention of the Montana High School Association, (MHSA). The MHSA is a private, non-profit organization serving Montana's high schools with respect to the regulation of interscholastic activities. The MHSA operates

battlefield as well. This resolution is an encouragement to continue with the congressional effort and develop the memorial for Indian participants at the battlefield. Perhaps a neutral stance would be more appropriate in naming the monument the Little Big Horn National Monument.

Proponents' Testimony:

Eric Feaver, Montana Education Association, (MEA), said this is appropriate legislation.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members: None

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. YELLOWTAIL thanked the committee and recommended favorable consideration.

HEARING ON SB 287

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR DELWYN GAGE, Senate District 5, Cut Bank, said the home school industry has done a decent job of policing its own industry and SB 287 will reinforce the fact it is a parental right to educate children at home. The Constitution guarantees every person the right to a basic, quality education. These parents feel they can provide that quality education better at home rather than in a public school setting. SB 287 states parents have the authority to instruct their children at home, are responsible for the educational philosophy of the home school, selection of instructional materials and textbooks, time, place and method of instruction, and the evaluation of that instruction.

Proponents' Testimony:

Bryan Asay, Montana Coalition of Home Educators, presented written testimony. EXHIBIT 5

Steve White, Vice-Chair, Montana Coalition of Home Educators, stated support and presented materials from study of home education characteristics and student achievement. EXHIBIT 6

Tiffany Donaldson, home school student, Montana City, presented written testimony from other home school children. EXHIBIT 7

Mark Gerber, Billings, presented written testimony. EXHIBIT 8

Linda Collins, Gardiner, presented written testimony. EXHIBIT 9

Danita Hane, editor, The Grapevine, Seeley Lake, presented

written testimony. **EXHIBIT 10 AND 11**

Kent Gilge, Chairman, Montana Coalition of Home Educators, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 12**

Dorothy Starshine, Helena, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 13**

Kimbra Wood, Bozeman, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 14**

Roger Koopman, Montana Forum, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 15.**

Roxy Sporleder, Great Falls, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 16**

Juliette Bouma, Augusta, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 17 AND 18**

Cynthia Peck, Dillon, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 19**

Ashur and Bonnie Diehl, East Helena, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 20**

Kasey O'Keefe, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 21**

Tracy Hawkins, Bozeman, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 22**

Karen Seyfert, Lewistown, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 23**

Ronald Baar, Manhattan, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 24**

Arlene Diehl, East Helena, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 25**

Paige Diehl, East Helena, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 26**

Bo Stuart, Clancy, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 27**

Russ Wahl, Cut Bank, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 28**

Bob Welker, Shelby, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 29**

Wanda Bear Medicine Peterson, Browning, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 30**

Vicky Locke, Big Timber, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 31**

Laurie Bumgarner, Shonkin, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 32**

Debbie Kersten, Ulm, presented written testimony. **EXHIBIT 33**

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members: None

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. GAGE thanked the committee and recommended favorable consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:30 p.m.

TED SCHYE, Chair

DIANNE MCKITTRICK, Secretary

TS/dMcK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL **DATE** 3-19-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. TED SCHYE, CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. ERVIN DAVIS, VICE-CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. STEVE BENEDICT	✓		
REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL	✓		
REP. ROBERT CLARK	✓		
REP. VICKI COCCHIARELLA	✓		
REP. FRED "FRITZ" DAILY	✓		
REP. ALVIN ELLIS, JR.	✓		
REP. GARY FELAND	✓		
REP. GARY FORRESTER	✓		
REP. FLOYD "BOB" GERVAIS	✓		
REP. H.S. "SONNY" HANSON	✓		
REP. DAN HARRINGTON	✓		
REP. TOM KILPATRICK	✓		
REP. BEA MCCARTHY	✓		
REP. SCOTT MCCULLOCH	✓		
REP. RICHARD SIMPKINS	✓		
REP. BARRY "SPOOK" STANG	✓		
REP. NORM WALLIN	✓		
REP. DIANA WYATT	✓		

CS05ED.MAN

TO: Chairman Ted Schye, House Education Committee

FROM: Bryan L. Asay, Montana Coalition of Home Educators

RE: **SB 287**

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

March 19, 1991

Current Montana law concerning Home Education is usable, effective and protects the interests of the State of Montana as well as the Family in Montana. The compromise in 1983 was effected by a great deal of discussion and consideration by interested citizens and legislators. It was by no means a bill requested or promoted by home educators. In fact, home educators were generally opposed to it; they understood, however, that the law would provide for uniform and objective application of review by the courts in cases which merit investigation and prosecution.

Home educators often are viewed as a suspect class of citizens. Unfortunately, some officials consider home education unfavorably in theory, and, therefore, consider home education to be abuse or least neglect in and of itself, regardless of the tremendous success of home education generally.

Abuse and neglect are abuse and neglect and should be handled under existing laws suited for protecting the child and the rights of the accused. **Compulsory attendance laws should not be viewed as a means for identifying child abuse and neglect.** If officials see problems, then they should investigate and prosecute when probable cause exists — otherwise, the parents should be left alone to educate.

This bill will refocus the state's attention to the existing law — a Good Compromise. **When the superintendent and home school parent sit across the table, this bill will tell them what their relationship is. It is that simple.** SB 287 was introduced in the Senate in a different form. Concerns were raised about the language which indicated it may accomplish more than intended. We made changes in the Senate to assure the actual intent of the bill was in place — no other purpose exists in this bill.

A Vote **"for"** this bill is **not** a vote against compulsory education or the Montana Constitution. It is **a vote to ratify a good compromise — a good alternative that is working very well without undue government intervention.**

Parents have a basic and fundamental right to direct the education of their children, coupled with that basic responsibility.

> The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations. *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510, 534-35 (1925); See also *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972).

Parent's rights to educate their child at home is a basic constitutional *liberty* guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution (*Yoder*). **This basic liberty was recognized in 1983** by the Montana Legislature. With rights and responsibilities comes authority. This is understood by all home educators and many superintendents. However, there has been misunderstanding among others regarding the authority which rests with parents.

Officials who have a misguided desire to reach into the home simply because the parents educate their children at home should be discouraged from doing so. **Montana's home educators are doing a tremendous job of educating their children. Those parents should be encouraged by SB 287.**

SB 287 does not necessarily lock the door to the home school. If the State determines at some point that a need exists to further regulate, then the State might assert its interest just as it might attempt to do so in other areas involving fundamental rights — if the interest is compelling, and the least restrictive means are used. Thank you for your consideration.

EXHIBIT #16
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

HOME EDUCATION IN MONTANA:

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.

National Home Education Research Institute
25 West Cremona Street
Seattle, Washington 98119

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House Education
#7
EXHIBIT
DATE 3-19-91
SB 281

"Why I Like Home Education"

A Compilation Of Essays By Montana's Home Educated Children

1991

EXHIBIT #8
DATE 3-19-91
SB 287

Testimony of Mark Gerber for SB 287

Mr. Chairman and committee members. My name is Mark Gerber, Coalition Executive Committee Member. I am general manager of Golden Nugget Body & Paint in Billings. We have homeschooled for 5 years.

This bill is a good one for three reasons.

First, we have worked hard with legislators and have compromised to make this a **positive, acceptable** bill.

Secondly, homeschoolers save the state of Montana $4 million per year on educational expenses, while still generating revenue for the state through the taxes they pay.

Thirdly, while many people and businesses are **leaving** our state, numerous homeschoolers are moving **into** the state because of our positive homeschool law. Attached are copies of **28** letters representing homeschoolers from **15 different states** and the **country of Korea.**

We receive letters weekly from homeschoolers who are considering moving to Montana instead of another state. Many of these people are businessmen and professionals who are moving **job-creating** businesses here.

Families have moved **here** seeking Montana's **freedom to educate.** They also will not hesitate to move out of Montana if they are harassed and have their freedom of choice suppressed.

Homeschoolers are building strong families and a strong economy for Montana, at the same time. Montana needs both. Vote for SB 287.

3-19-91

The 28 letters attached to Mark Gerber's testimony are stored at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

EXHIBIT #4
DATE 3-19-91
SB 287

TESTIMONY OF LINDA COLLINS

To: Chairman Ted Schye
House Education Committee
Date: March 19,1991

I am Linda Collins, a housewife and vice president of Sagebrush Aero, Incorporated in Gardiner, and the treasurer for the Montana Coalition of Home Educators. The Coalition, formed in 1988, is a statewide network of 800-900 individuals, including 50-some local groups, with national affiliations. The Coalition was formed specifically to benefit and protect home schooling families.

Because home schooling successes are of critical importance to us, we work to identify and contact every home schooling family in Montana. We provide educational information about resources and support services. We encourage parents to join local support groups. We recommend that they subscribe to our state newsletter and other home schooling publications. We offer Coalition services such as testing, and workshops on subjects such as compliance with the law. We organize conventions, seminars and training opportunities for every home schooler in Montana to attend.

Our accomplishments are impressive. We have networked over 50 support groups around the state. These support groups offer year round interaction between home schooling families. The *Grapevine* is our top-notch statewide newsletter that keeps home educating families abreast of what's happening and what's available. *Home School Reference Guides* have been distributed by the thousands every summer to home educators, libraries, county superintendents and interested people.

Many seminars and workshops featuring nationally acclaimed educators have been sponsored by the Coalition. A workshop in White Sulphur Springs is conducted each fall to assist families new to home education. A very successful state-wide convention was held last spring in Helena, attracting over 400 people from Montana, neighboring states, and Canada. Many curriculum fairs have sprung up around the state. And twice the Governor has honored us by proclaiming a week in May as Home Education Week.

The Coalition responds to rumors of home schooling problems by investigating individual reports and offering assistance, guidance, training and curriculum sources. Although we help each other, we do not shield "bad" homeschoolers. This self-monitoring is critical to us as our collective credibility is at risk, hence our freedom.

Montana has recognized parents' rights to direct the education of their children. SB 287 clarifies the authority and responsibility of parents who choose to educate at home. Please support this constructive bill which will simplify future debate.

Ex. 10
3-19-91
SB 287

Montana
HOME SCHOOL REFERENCE GUIDE

FREE to LEARN

Montana Home Schools

EXHIBIT #11
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

TO: Chairman Ted Schye, House Education Committee

FROM: Danita Hane, Montana Coalition of Home Educators

RE: SB 287

March 19, 1991

I am Danita Hane from Seeley Lake. My husband, Kyle, is the supervisor of planer operations at Pyramid Mountain Lumber. I am an executive committee member of the Montana Coalition of Home Educators and editor of the *Grapevine*, the state-wide newsletter. I have the opportunity to meet and help many homeschoolers and learn about their problems and needs. We need SB 287 for the following reasons:

1. **TO ELIMINATE TENSION AND CONFUSION.** This bill is a clarification of the rights and responsibilities of home schooling families. These rights are protected under the present home school statutes. It will help to eliminate the confusion about roles and responsibilities. Confusion has caused tension and problems for homeschoolers, county superintendents and even local school administrators and trustees. We have been working to improve communication and relationships. This bill will help to clear up some of the misunderstandings and concerns.

2. **TO PROTECT THE HOME SCHOOL OPTION.** Several education groups are promoting policies that would force home schools into the mold of the public schools, i.e. certification of teachers, mandated curriculum, standardized testing and monitoring by public school educators. Many parents choose home schooling because their children are having problems in conventional classrooms. Public education works for many children, but alternatives must be available for those who do not fit. Parents need the flexibility to use different materials and methods to help their children learn. They also must retain control of the evaluation procedures.

3. **TO MAKE A POSITIVE STATEMENT ABOUT FAMILIES.** Home education is rebuilding strong families, strong family relationships and strong family values. We are asking you to pass this bill as a positive statement about families—to recognize and encourage parental responsibility, and to protect our children and families.

Please vote for SB 287 and protect the home school option.

Danita Hane, HCR 31, Box 1702, Seeley Lake, Montana 59868

MONTANA COALITION OF HOME EDUCATORS

P.O. BOX 654
HELENA, MT 59624

EXHIBIT #12
DATE 3-19-91
SB 287

Executive Committee

Kent Gilge - Chairman
Chinook
357-2893

Danita Hane
Seeley Lake
754-2481

Mark Gerber
Billings
245-2122

Steve White
Helena
443-5826

Linda Collins - Treasurer
Gardiner
848-7226

Advisory Committee

Big Timber Homeschoolers
Beaverhead Home Educators
Billings Area Homeschoolers
Bitterroot Valley Homeschoolers
Boulder Homeschoolers
Butte Area Homeschoolers
Cascade Homeschoolers
Central Montana Homeschoolers
Colstrip Homeschool Group
East Slope Academic Association
Flathead Valley Homeschoolers Association
Gallatin Valley Homeschoolers
Gardiner's Homeschoolers
GFCC Homeschoolers
Glasgow Home Educators
Glendive Area Home Educators
Helena Area Christian Home Educators
HiLine Homeschoolers
Homeschoolers of Montana
Laurel Area Homeschoolers
Lincoln County Christian Homeschoolers
Meagher County Homeschoolers
Mission Valley Homeschoolers
Missoula Homeschoolers Association
Northern Home Educators
Northwest Montana Homeschoolers
Park County Homeschoolers Association
Seeley-Swan Homeschoolers
Shepherd Area Homeschoolers
Whitehall Area Homeschoolers

House Education Committee

March 19, 1991

Re: SB 287

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Some educators have expressed concern about the ability of homeschooled children to be successful in post secondary education. I have compiled a partial list of the colleges and universities in which Montana home educated children have been accepted or are currently enrolled. They include the following:

Montana State University
Texas A&M
Northern Montana College
Rocky Mountain College
LeTourneau University
Wheaton College
Thomas Aguinas College
Walla Walla College
Seattle Pacific University
University of Oregon
Christian Heritage College
Liberty University
Stanford
USC
Wiemar College
U of Berkeley
MIT
Magdalen College, N.H.

A number of institutions, such as Boston University, Northern Montana College and Harvard have had such positive experience with home educated students, they are actively soliciting and recruiting them.

Submitted by Kent Gilge, Chairman

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

Boston University

Office of Admissions
121 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

December 17, 1990

To homeschooled students:

Boston University welcomes applications from homeschooled students. We believe students educated primarily at home possess the passion for knowledge, the independence, and self-reliance that enable them to excel in our intellectually challenging programs of study.

Two homeschooled students currently attend Boston University. One is a sophomore in the College of Liberal Arts, the other a freshman in the College of Engineering. Both students are doing very well. Their educational and personal transitions from homeschooling to the University are a proven success.

If you are a homeschooled student interested in attending college or simply concerned to know more about your options in higher education, we would be pleased to talk with you. To get in touch with us, please call or write to Kathy Mackin, Assistant Director Of Admissions (telephone 617 353-4806). An interview can also be arranged. Our address:

Boston University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
881 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

George A. Schiller, Jr.
Director of Undergraduate Admissions

NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE
Montana University System
HAVRE, MT 59501
(406) 265-3704

EXHIBIT #12
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

February 13, 1991

Office of
Admissions

Mr. Kent Gilge, Chairman
Montana Coalition of Home Educators
P.O. Box 654
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Mr. Gilge:

Thank you for your letter dated February 10, 1991. For organization's sake, let me respond to your questions singularly.

Admissions requirements for home schooled students are quite simple. The student must make arrangements to take the G.E.D. examination and, upon successful completion of the examination, are allowed to begin college as a student under conditional status. Conditional status essentially requires the student to enroll for a prescribed credit load and, after completing these courses without being placed on academic probation, are removed from conditional status and are considered regular students.

The obvious implication is that no matter how well educated the home school student, current policy will treat that student as if he/she had not completed a high school education. This is true even if the student has completed the ACT or SAT examination with high marks.

Your second question asked what my experience with home educated students has been. I am currently familiar with five students who have applied for admission at Northern Montana College who were home taught. Four of these students are currently enrolled and are doing quite well. Two of the four are well above average. The fifth student was offended by the G.E.D. requirement and did not matriculate.

I have no reservations at all about admitting home educated students. To the contrary, I would like to see the G.E.D. requirement dropped and replaced by an appropriate ACT or SAT score to verify the quality of the home education. Based on what I've seen, I'm confident that these students are prepared for the challenge.

If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to write again or call me at (406)265-3704.

Sincerely,

Kelly Palmer
Director of Admissions

xc: file

NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE IS A UNIT OF THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, THE OTHER COMPONENT INSTITUTIONS OF WHICH ARE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AT MISSOULA, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT BOZEMAN, MONTANA COLLEGE OF MINERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT BUTTE, WESTERN MONTANA COLLEGE AT DILLON, AND EASTERN MONTANA COLLEGE AT BILLINGS.

CARROLL COLLEGE

EXHIBIT #12
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

March 5, 1991

Mr. Kent Gilge
Montana Coalition of Home Educators
P. O. Box 654
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Mr. Gilge:

I received your letter on February 27th concerning home educated students in Montana. I hope my information will be helpful to you.

All students are individually evaluated for admission to Carroll. To be accepted without provision to the college, a home educated student would need to meet the following academic requirements:

* score at least 50% on the GED (Graduation Equivalency Diploma)
* score a minimum of a 21 composition on the ACT Test or a minimum combined score of 800 on the SAT test.

Any student who does not meet these minimum requirements are reviewed by the Admission Committee.

Carroll College does not have a large number of students with this type of educational background, but the few students we do have seem to be doing very well. Therefore, based on past experience, I do not have any concerns or reservations about enrolling home educated students.

Sincerely,

Candace A. Cain
Director of Admission

MAGDALEN
COLLEGE

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

Mrs. Danielle Neal
P.O. Box 293
Augusta, Montana 59410

19 January 1991

Dear Mrs. Neal;

In reply to your letter, I would be pleased to pass on my assessment your daughter's academic performance and her social adjustment to college life.

As you know, the curriculum at Magdalen College is a four year integrated program based on the great books. Students read the primary texts of the Western tradition, beginning with Homer and concluding with Heisenberg. In addition, the program at Magdalen College includes four years of mathematics and three years of science. There are no electives. The Magdalen College program is taught by the seminar method of instruction, which requires that each student be actively engaged in class discussion.

This demanding academic program would make any weaknesses in Brenda's prior education obvious. I am pleased to report that Brenda is an active participant in class discussions and that overall she is doing well academically.

As far as I know Brenda had no difficulty adjusting to college life. I know for certain that she has many friends and a rich social life at the College.

If Brenda is a representative Montana home-schooler, then I would conclude that home-schooling in Montana is a success.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,

George Stanciu, Ph. D.
Academic Dean

EXHIBIT #13
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

D. Starshine, Ph.D.
704 First
Helena, MT 59601
449-6663

Thank you for taking the time to gain the information necessary to make a wise decision on SB 287. I appreciate your time here listening and other time you must spend reading.

I am Dorothy Starshine. I have taught in the Helena school system for over twenty years and am currently teaching English to 7th and 8th grade students. I have a doctorate from the University of Georgia in Reading Education. Both my thesis and dissertation involved testing. Five of my eight school-age grandchildren are being homeschooled and I am proud of their education.

I am here to support point 4 of SB 287 because I feel the parents can best evaluate their homeschool students.

I will begin by talking about tests in general. As ubiquitous as tests are, it is difficult to realize that standardized tests have existed less than a hundred years. In the last fifty years, they have become big business. Ralph Nader estimates at least 3 to 4 billion dollars are spent annually on testing.

Tests have two main components: reliability and validity. Reliability is a statistical measure that simply reports the percentage of time that a student taking that test would have that score. Reliability is an objective measure of a test.

Validity, on the other hand, is a subjective measure of a test. Validity refers to the degree to which the test measures what the test user thinks it measures. To be valid, a test must test what has been taught. For example, a math test reports how well a student manipulates numbers. A spelling test reports how well a student spells words. Even these simple examples are fraught with difficulties such a how many digits and the range of those digits are used in the math problems or which words are used in the list of spelling words.

A stickier wicket is the achievement test. Achieved what? If schools or the county superintendent administer the tests to homeschoolers, the tests will be invalid for neither the schools nor the superintendent has a clue as to what has been taught to homeschool students. Homeschool students study a variety of subjects at a variety of levels because homeschools have a small student-teacher ratio. If public school teachers had only 1 to 5 students for their total enrollment, they could also diversify their teaching. There is no way that a school or county superintendent could choose a valid test to administer to a homeschool student because to be valid, a test must test what has been taught.

Standardized tests are not developed to measure the acievement of one student but a group of students. Alan Cohen in <u>Tests: Marked for Life?</u>

> However useful it may be in describing a group, an NRST (norm referenced standardized test)

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DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

doesn't provide a reliable picture of an individual score especially if the student is above or below the average. And more importantly, it's an insensitive and sluggish measure of instructional outcome, whether we're measuring an individual or a group.

Furthermore, standardized testing has had its day. Leading experts in education want a process form of evaluation. Susan Harman writes in the January 1991, issue of Language Arts.

> The pressure to raise test scores, in turn, results in: impoverished curricula of arbitrary facts and discrete details which are really just test practice;... passive students;... and almost total neglect of the kinds of intellectual experiences which would, in fact, help children reach "higher standards."
>
> ...Our de facto national standards--the tests--have themselves become political, emotional, and pedagogical barriers to quality education.
>
> ...Many of us also know how to improve schools and it's not by tests, mandates, or other magical thinking. Instead, like all teaching, it's careful, slow, thoughtful, personalized work. Our 50-year testing detour was a forced march to a

dead end. It's time to return to the high road of progressive educational reform.

Homeschools are ahead of educational reform. They are already offering that careful, slow, thoughtful, pesonalized education we wish we could offer in public schools but cannot because of the many students we must teach.

I urge you to support SB 287 because only the parents who are with their students all day every day know what their students have been studying. Only the parents, selecting among the thousands of tests available to them, can possibly find a test that matches what their students have been learning and thus administer a valid test.

EXHIBIT #14
DATE 3-19-91
SB 287

Regarding SB 287

TESTIMONY OF KIMBRA WOOD

349 Sacajawea Peak Drive
Bozeman, Montana

Hello! I am Kimbra Wood, a homeschooling mother, and I realize that you are being asked to make a decision about something which is probably unfamiliar to you. Therefore I'd like to tell you a little about my experience, which is common to most homeschoolers.

I've taught our three children for seven years, teaching them to read through many hours cuddled on the couch with each child. My children are twelve, nine, and seven, but I still read aloud to them every morning, sharing a treasury of great literature. Math, science, history and language form the core of the ten subjects we study. Although I have only two years of college education my children score over 95% on the California Achievement Test. Our children take piano lessons, are involved in organized sports, including cross-country skiing and soccer, and attend church weekly. They relate well to people of all ages, partly due to the steady stream of guests through our home.

All of us believe that our state and country need qualified leaders with strong intellectual and moral fiber. Homeschooling is an excellent way to meet this need.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

EXHIBIT #15
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

TESTIMONY OF ROGER E. KOOPMAN
in support of SB 287

House Education and Cultural Resources Committee
March 19, 1991

MR. CHAIRMAN. It is said to be very important for people to have confidence in their government, and that is true. Yet of even greater importance is that government have confidence in her people.

Perhaps more than anything else, SB 287 is an expression of the confidence government has in her people. It is an affirmation of human freedom in the pursuit of educational excellence, and is saying to Montana parents, "we continue to trust you with the decisions you make in behalf of your children's education."

While this legislation addresses the rights of children and parents to home educate, it should not be construed as a statement endorsing one form of education over another. This bill, in part, is a reminder to all parents that they are the ones who are ultimately responsible for the education their children will receive, whether they choose private, public or home school. It is altogether fitting that they should accept that fundamental responsibility.

Furthermore, this bill recognizes that educational diversity and freedom of choice will, in the long run, serve everyone's best interests. The fruits of freedom shower down on all; its beneficiaries are an entire society.

****

EXHIBIT 11th
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

Honorable Chairperson and Committee Members:

I am Roxie Sporleder from Great Falls. I have a Master's Degree in Education and currently hold a Montana Class 1 Teaching Certificate. I have over 20 years' experience in the field of education, working in such capacities as a teacher, an administrator of a private school, an in-service trainer for teachers, and a homschooler of seven children. Three of my homeschooled children are currently attending college. I am asking you to support Senate Bill 287.

Today I would like to address in particular the provision stating that the parent is the sole authority and is responsible for all decisions regarding the selection of instructional materials, curriculum, and textbooks. I believe parents have both the capabilities and the resources to effectively fulfill these responsibilities.

First of all, we must realize that the homeschool movement is serviced by a full range of professionals. These not only include individuals with Bachelor of Arts degrees, but also those with Master's degrees and Doctoral degrees in Education. Those with advanced degrees are involved in scientific educational research, in curriculum development, in teacher and parent education, and in other administrative and supportive services. With the help of these professionals, including the Hewitt Research Foundation and the National Home Education Research Institute, homeschoolers are on the cutting edge of educational methodology. Some of the current trends in American education are cooperative learning, learning styles instruction, individualized instruction, process writing, and cross-age tutoring. By the very nature of homeschooling itself and by deliberate choice, these are curriculum methods successfully employed by homeschooling parents.

Secondly, many basic books about schooling and homeschooling are available to the parent. The Big Book of Home Learning series by Mary Pride, The Curriculum Manual by Cathy Duffy, The Homeschool Manual by Dr. Ted Wade, professor of education, and Homestyle Teaching and Homegrown Kids by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore are but a few of these kinds of books. These give clear and detailed guidelines and instructions on curriculum construction

EXHIBIT 16
DATE 3-19-91
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textbook sources and selection, curriculum reviews, approaches to teaching each subject, and much more information.

Thirdly, parents have access to hundreds of publishers that print for the general public, for the private school, and/or the homeschool. These publishers include the major Christian publishing companies such as Bob Jones Press, A Beka Publishing, and Alpha Omega. In the last Teaching Home, a national magazine for homeschoolers, 93 publishers were reviewed or advertized. Through these publishers, high structured, closely supervised programs are available as well as individual textbooks and materials.

A fourth major resource to parents are the monthly newsletters and magazines published especially for the homeschooler. The Teaching Home, the nationally distributed magazine mentioned earlier, contains a wealth of information to enable parents to succeed. Dr. Ruth Beechick serves as the Educational Consultant for this magazine. Besides the ads for the publishers, textbooks and curriculums are reviewed and rated. "Teaching Methods and Tips" is a regular column that gives practical ideas to make teaching more effective. Each month there is a special section with up to ten articles devoted to a specific teaching area and methodology such as reading, literature, music, hands-on-learning, mathematics, and other curriculum subjects.

A fifth valuable resource to the homeschooling parent are the workshops, conventions, and seminars that are conducted by professionals and experienced homeschoolers throughout the United States. There are at least 24 state conventions, including Montana and over 24 workshop courses offered to parents. The Association of Christian Schools International has invited homseschoolers to their regional conventions and publishing companies such as Bob Jones offer 1 to 5 day seminars for parents.

The sixth resource I wish to mention are the support groups in the local communities. These can be mini-workshops where professionals and homeschoolers present valuable information on curriculum, the teaching-learning process, and other educational subjects, or they are discussions of relevant issues by parents, resulting in parents helping other parents. The purpose of these support groups is to continue the training of the parent in educational areas, to solve particular problems faced in

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HB 287

the education of children, and to share ideas.

In summary, parents have their own professional network to help them set up a curriculum and select methodologies that are best suited to the particular learning style and needs of their children and in accordance with their philosophy of education and religious convictions.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxie Sporleder

Roxie Sporleder
2215 4th Ave. South
Great Falls, Montana 59405

EXHIBIT #17
DATE 3-19-91
SB 287

Testimony of Juliette Bouma
Augusta, Montana

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Committee:

I am Juliette Bouma, a 2nd-generation home-educator. The oldest daughter of 'Chet' and 'Ginny' Baker, formerly of Montana, I now teach my own three children.

Mother received her degree in interior decorating from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

We 'formally' studied 3 hours a day, 4 days a week, 8 months a year. She knew what she did **not** want in curriculum, so proceeded to find what she **did** like. She started home-educating the four of us in 1972.

From the chart attached, you can see what years we children were home-taught and where each of us has gone since graduating from high-school. (Keep in mind that Mom's weak point was Science.)

I ask that SB 287 do pass, as a clarification of the protected responsibilities I have had for years.

Thank you for your time.

Juliette Bouma
Name

3-19-91
Date

EXHIBIT #17
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

Date: 3-19-91

My brothers, sister and I were home-schooled by our mother, Mrs. Virginia Birt Baker, during the years 1972 to 1987. Five of those years were in Montana. Following is a chart briefly listing some of the academic achievements of us four now-grown children.

Name	Years	Grades	Post-secondary academic achievements	Present Status	Future Plans
Juliette	6	7-12	One semester intensive phonics education, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.	housewife & mother; home-schooling 3 children.	Same.
Christopher	7	6-12	BS: biomedical science, from Texas A&M. MS: nutrition, TX.A&M. Advanced post-graduate courses in nutrition, from Virginia Tech,VA. Doctoral candidate, chiropractic/medical at Texas Chiropractic College, Pasadena, Texas.	Student interning at VA hospital, Houston, Texas, specializing in nutrition, rheumatism, & neurology.	Doctor/ chiropractor/ nutritionist.
Nancy	9	4-12	Three years accounting & business management, Covenant College, Lookout, TN. & Univ. of TX., Tyler, Texas.	Married, manager of travel agency, parttime graduate student.	CPA, then fulltime housewife & mother, parttime CPA.
Matthew	13	K-12	Senior, agricultural engineering, TX. A&M, specializing in food processing.	4 th year undergraduate student; reserve police officer, Bryan, Texas.	MS: in food science and technology, & business.

Not included are our many extra-curricular activities, honors, awards, elected offices, and achievements (i.e.: Chris's high G.P.A., his times on the Dean's list, or his record as graduate assistant to the Dean of Agriculture at TX. A&M., and class president at T.C.C.; the fact that Matt was chosen out of a 45,000 student body by the Chancellor of TX. A&M to live in the guest house on his estate, in his house when the family is away; the fact that Julie is the owner of a u.s. patent, the result of one of her imaginative inventions; or that Nancy is a world traveller.

EXHIBIT #18
DATE 3-19-91
SB 287

Testimony of Danielle Neal

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Committee:

I am Danielle Neal, a home-schooling mother. I am presently teaching four children.

With no formal experience in the teaching field and little knowledge of curriculum, I started teaching my oldest, 12-year-old Brenda. Seven years later, she tested above the state and national average on the SAT college entrance exam. She was accepted by each college to which she applied. One of the colleges is listed in the **Barron and Peterson's Guide to Prestigious Colleges** as one of the top 4% of competitive colleges in the nation. She is presently a sophomore, pre-law student.

My reward was made paramount when I took her to the airport for her first flight to college. She hugged and thanked me with, "Mom, **I would never be here today** if it hadn't been for Dad and you." I will never forget that moment!

I thank the Montana Legislature for having made that possible.

Please pass SB 287.

Danielle Neal
Name

March 19, 1991
Date

EXHIBIT 18
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

MAGDALEN COLLEGE

Mrs. Danielle Neal
P.O. Box 293
Augusta, Montana 59410

19 January 1991

Dear Mrs. Neal;

In reply to your letter, I would be pleased to pass on my assessment your daughter's academic performance and her social adjustment to college life.

As you know, the curriculum at Magdalen College is a four year integrated program based on the great books. Students read the primary texts of the Western tradition, beginning with Homer and concluding with Heisenberg. In addition, the program at Magdalen College includes four years of mathematics and three years of science. There are no electives. The Magdalen College program is taught by the seminar method of instruction, which requires that each student be actively engaged in class discussion.

This demanding academic program would make any weaknesses in Brenda's prior education obvious. I am pleased to report that Brenda is an active participant in class discussions and that overall she is doing well academically.

As far as I know Brenda had no difficulty adjusting to college life. I know for certain that she has many friends and a rich social life at the College.

If Brenda is a representative Montana home-schooler, then I would conclude that home-schooling in Montana is a success.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,

George Stanciu, Ph. D.
Academic Dean

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 3-19-91
HB 287

TESTIMONY OF BRENDA NEAL
Augusta, Montana

I am Brenda Neal, a country girl from Augusta. I am a 1989 graduate of a Montana home school and presently a second-year pre-law student at Magdalen College in Bedford, New Hampshire. I wish to share my experiences and beliefs with the Montana Legislature and why I am in favor of SB 287 as it takes into consideration home education.

Senate Bill 287 assures:

(1) flexibility and individuality. The parent/teacher has the indisputable advantage of recognizing the individual differences in his/her children and responds accordingly, using a variety of instructional skills, teaching the students to work independently, and motivating them. The parent/teacher also can take advantage of community resources outside the home to broaden the student's knowledge.

(2) responsibility and performance assessment. The parent/teacher is committed to his child's education. He/she determines the academic curriculum, creating many paths to knowledge, helping the student to pose and solve problems on his own, and managing and monitoring the student's achievement and understanding of how the various subjects are linked to other areas of learning. I agree, as long as the home-educated student is enrolled in an active home school curriculum, that no external assessment of instruction or accountability is desired, required, or constitutionally authorized.

I began home education in the seventh grade. The only national test I had taken was the SAT, the college entrance exam. I scored above the national and state average, thus opening all doors for my college education. This can all be attributed to my home education, since before that I was a student who hated school and especially reading. My parents saw that I lacked the necessary skills to read well, and since my second year of home schooling, I began to enjoy reading even for pure leisure. School was not the task it had been but was a pleasurable challenge to learn. If my mother had not taught me to read well, I would never have attained good grammar skills or a wide vocabulary, which I also attribute to my Latin course. Because of my English and grammar skills, I was recently asked by my English college professor to tutor other students in my class.

I know that my home education evoked my facile acceptance to all the colleges to which I applied and the scholarships awarded to me. One of the colleges where I was accepted is rated in Barron and Peterson's Guide to Prestigious Colleges in the top 4% of competitive colleges in the nation. The college I am attending is a private college in a Boston suburb, and I am planning a career in law.

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 3-19-91
SB 287

Perhaps you are asking yourselves, how did she adjust socially, especially coming from a rural Montana home, twenty miles to the nearest community, to a major college in an eastern city, no less?! Well, the adjustment was smooth, with absolutely no problems at all. I fell right into the circulation of social and academic life. I associate with a large circle of colleagues and am always open and willing to meet and talk with anyone. As for extra curricular activities, I am an active member of a volleyball team and a guard on the college girls basketball team. I have also joined one of the most outstanding drama clubs in the Boston area. This is an art from which I derive much pleasure. Along with drama, I belong to a seventy-person choir where I sing alto, and I have an hour and a half practice three times a week in addition to my academic load.

I kindly request that the Montana Senate Education Committee take my testimony into deep consideration. Please accept my sincere thank-you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Neal

Brenda Neal

2/15/91

[Date]

Exhibits 19-33 are letters supporting SB 287. The originals are stored at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Chairman Ted Schye, on April 1, 1991, at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:
Ted Schye, Chairman (D)
Ervin Davis, Vice-Chairman (D)
Steve Benedict (R)
Ernest Bergsagel (R)
Robert Clark (R)
Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Fred "Fritz" Daily (D)
Alvin Ellis, Jr. (R)
Gary Feland (R)
Gary Forrester (D)
Floyd "Bob" Gervais (D)
H.S. "Sonny" Hanson (R)
Dan Harrington (D)
Tom Kilpatrick (D)
Bea McCarthy (D)
Scott McCulloch (D)
Richard Simpkins (R)
Barry "Spook" Stang (D)
Norm Wallin (R)
Diana Wyatt (D)

Staff Present: Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council
Dianne McKittrick, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 20

Motion: REP. STANG moved SJR BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion: REP. WALLIN said he opposed changing the name from the Custer Battlefield to the Little Big Horn. CHAIRMAN SCHYE explained the name change is a directive from the US Congress and Rep. Marlenee is carrying the bill.

Vote: Motion CARRIED upon voice vote 15 to 5 with REPS. BENEDICT, CLARK, FELAND, HANSON, and WALLIN voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 17

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 117

Motion: **REP. COCCHIARELLA** moved SB 117 **BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion: **REP. COCCHIARELLA** said she disliked the idea of campus security guards carrying firearms but said they are police officers and are expected to perform as such. The only way any campus security officers will carry arms as the bill is written is if the student population approves.

REP. SIMPKINS asked if the students say no, does that take precedence over the university arming the security guards or does this legislation say university officials merely have to consult with the student body. **EDDYE MCCLURE** said the amendment simply says consult. The Board of Regents does listen to the students quite a bit and would defer a lot to them but nothing in the amendment says the students could say no guns and the board must comply with their wishes. It is just a consultation mandate.

Vote: Motion **CARRIED** 17 to 3. **EXHIBIT 9**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 32

Motion/Vote: **REP. DAILY** moved SB 32 **BE TABLED.** Motion **CARRIED** upon voice vote 13 to 7 with **REPS. BENEDICT, CLARK, ELLIS, FELAND, HANSON, SIMPKINS,** and **WALLIN** voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 287

Motion: **REP. STANG** moved SB 287 **BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion: **REP. FORRESTER** said he opposed SB 287 on the grounds to say home schooled students receive a superior education is an insult. They may receive a good education but it is not superior to that of their public school counterparts. **REP. FORRESTER** said he cannot support legislation based on these kinds of statements.

REP. BENEDICT said there is nothing in this bill stating they receive a superior education. This bill reaffirms their rights to home school and the responsibilities and rights of those parents who take on that opportunity. These folks continue to pay taxes to support the public education system.

REP. WALLIN said the spelling champion of Gallatin County is a home schooled student which points to the validity of this alternative method of education.

REP. STANG said many of the same programs taught in public schools are taught in home schools in his district. The accreditation standards are specific in citing the fewer students in a class, the better the education. Over the years home school education has continued proving itself as a valid alternative.

Motion/Vote: REP. HARRINGTON made a substitute motion **TO TABLE** SB 287. Motion **FAILED** 7 to 13. **EXHIBIT 10 CHAIRMAN SCHYE** moved to reverse the vote. **SB 287 BE CONCURRED IN** 13 to 7. Motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:30 p.m.

TED SCHYE, Chair

DIANNE MCKITTRICK, Secretary

TS/dMcK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL DATE 4-1-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. TED SCHYE, CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. ERVIN DAVIS, VICE-CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. STEVE BENEDICT	✓		
REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL	✓		
REP. ROBERT CLARK	✓		
REP. VICKI COCCHIARELLA	✓		
REP. FRED "FRITZ" DAILY	✓		
REP. ALVIN ELLIS, JR.	✓		
REP. GARY FELAND	✓		
REP. GARY FORRESTER	✓		
REP. FLOYD "BOB" GERVAIS	✓		
REP. H.S. "SONNY" HANSON	✓		
REP. DAN HARRINGTON	✓		
REP. TOM KILPATRICK	✓		
REP. BEA MCCARTHY	✓		
REP. SCOTT MCCULLOCH	✓		
REP. RICHARD SIMPKINS	✓		
REP. BARRY "SPOOK" STANG	✓		
REP. NORM WALLIN	✓		
REP. DIANA WYATT	✓		

CS05ED.MAN

EXHIBIT # 10
DATE 4-1-91
HB SB 287

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL VOTE

DATE 4-1-91 BILL NO. SB 287 NUMBER

MOTION: Table - Failed (Motion by Rep. Harrington) Reverse vote to Be Concurred In

NAME	AYE	NO
REP. TED SCHYE, CHAIRMAN	✓	
REP. ERVIN DAVIS, VICE-CHAIRMAN		✓
REP. STEVE BENEDICT		✓
REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL		✓
REP. ROBERT CLARK		✓
REP. VICKI COCCHIARELLA	✓	
REP. FRED "FRITZ" DAILY	✓	
REP. ALVIN ELLIS, JR.		✓
REP. GARY FELAND		✓
REP. GARY FORRESTER	✓	
REP. FLOYD "BOB" GERVAIS	✓	
REP. H.S. "SONNY" HANSON		✓
REP. DAN HARRINGTON	✓	
REP. TOM KILPATRICK		✓
REP. BEA MCCARTHY	✓	
REP. SCOTT MCCULLOCH		✓
REP. RICHARD SIMPKINS		✓
REP. BARRY "SPOOK" STANG		✓
REP. NORM WALLIN		✓
REP. DIANA WYATT		✓
TOTAL	7	13